PANDOSTO.

THE TRIVMPH OF TIME.

VVherein is discouered by a pleasant Historie, that although by the meanes of sinister *Fortune*, *Truth* may bee concealed, yet by *Time*, in spight of *Fortune*, it is manifestly revealed.

Pleasant for Age to avoyd drowsie thoughts, Profitable for *Youth*, to avoyd other wanton Pastimes: And bringing to both a desired Content.

Temporis filia Veritas.

By ROBERT GREENE, Master of Arts in *Cambridge*.

Omne tulit punctum qui miscuit vtile dulci.

LONDON,

Printed by *T. P.* for *Francis Faulkner*, and are to bee sould at his Shop in *Southwarke*, neere Saint *Margarets* Hill. 1632.

THE TRIUMPH OF TIME.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE HISTORIE OF *DORASTVS* AND *FAWNIA.*

AMongſt all the paſſions wherwith humane minds are perplexed, there is none that ſo galleth with reſtleſſe deſpight, as that infectious ſore of Iealouſie: For all other griefes are either to be appeaſed with ſenſible perſwaſion, to be cured with wholeſome counſell, to be relieued in want, or by tract of time to be worne out, Iealouſie only excepted, which is fauced with ſuſpitious doubts, & pinching miſtruſt, that who ſo ſéeks by friendly counſel to raze out this hellish paſſion, it forthwith ſuſpecteth that he giueth this aduice to couer his own guiltines. Yea, who ſo is pinched with this reſtles torment, doubteth all, diſturbeth himſelfe, is alwaies frozen with feare, & fired with ſuſpition, hauing that wherin conſiſteth all his ioy, to bee the bréeder of his miſery. Yea, it is ſuch an heauy enemy to that heauy eſtate of matrimony, ſowing betwéen the maried couples ſuch deadly ſeeds of ſecret hatred, as loue being once razed out by ſpightfull diſtruſt, there oft enſueth bloody reuenge, as this enſuing Hiſtory manifeſtly proueth wherin Pandoſto (furiouſly incenſed by a cauſles iealouſie) procured the death of his moſt louing and loyall wife, and his owne endles ſorrow & miſery.

IN the Countrey of Bohemia, there raigned a King called Pandoſto, whoſe fortunate ſucceſſe in Warres againſt his Foes, and bountifull courteſie towardes his Friends in Peace made him to be greatly feared and loued of all men. This Pandoſto had to wife a Lady called Bellaria, by birth royall, learned by education, faire by nature, by vertues famous: ſo that it was hard to iudge, whether her beauty, fortune, or ver-

tue, wan the greatest commendations. These two linked together in perfect loue, led their liues with such fortunate content, that their subiects greatly reioyced to see their quiet disposition. They had not bin maried long, but fortune (willing to increase their happines) lent them a Sonne, so adorned with the gifts of Nature, as the perfection of the child greatly augmented the loue of the Parents, and the ioy of their Comunions: in so much that the Bohemians, to shew their inward ioyes by outward actions, made Bone-fires and Triumphes throwout all the Kingdome, appoynting Iusts and Turneys, for the honour of their young Prince: whether resorted not only his Nobles, but also diuers Kinges and Princes which were his Neighbours, willing to shew their friendship they ought to Pandosto, and to win fame and glory by their prowesse & valour Pandosto, whose mind was fraught with Princely liberality, entertained the Kings, Princes, and Noble-men with such submisse courtesie, and magnificall bounty, that they all saw how willing he was to gratifie their good wills, making a generall Feast of all his Subiects, which continued by the space of Twenty dayes; all which time the Iusts and Turneyes were kept, to the great content both of the Lords and Ladies there present. This solemne Triumph being once ended, the assembly taking their leaue of Pandosto and Bellaria, the yong Son (who was called Garinter) was nursed vp in the house, to the great ioy and content of their Parents. Fortune enuious of such happy successe, willing to shew some sign of her inconstancy, turned her wheele and darkned their bright Sunne of prosperity, with the misty Clouds of mishap and misery. For so it happened, that Egistus king of Sicilia, who in his youth had bin brought vp with pandosto, desirous to shew, that neither tract of time, or distance of place could diminish their former friendship, prouided a Nauy of ships, & saled into Bohemia, to visite his old friend and companion: who hearing of his arriuall, went himselfe in person, & his wife Bellaria, accompanyed with a great traine of Lords & Ladyes, to meet Egistus, & espying him alighted from his horse, embraced him very louingly, protesting, that nothing in the world could haue hapned more acceptable to him then his coming, wishing his wife to welcome his old friend and acquaintance

tance; who (to ſhew how ſhe liked him who̅ her husband loued) entertained him with ſuch familiar courteſie, as Egiſtus perceiued himſelfe to be very well welcome. After they had thus ſaluted and embraced each other, they mounted againe on horſe-backe, and rode toward the Citty, deuiſing and recounting, how being children, they had paſſed their youth in friendly paſtimes: where, by the meanes of the Citizens, Egiſtus was receiued with triumphs and ſhewes, in ſuch ſort, that he marueiled how on ſo ſmall a warning they could make ſuch preparation. Paſſing the ſtreets thus with ſuch rare ſights, they rode on to the Palace: where Pandoſto entertained Egiſtus and his Sycilians with ſuch banqueting & ſumptuous chere, ſo royally, as they had all cauſe to commend his Princely liberality: yea, the very baſeſt Slaue that was knowne to come from Sicilia, was vſed with much courteſie, that Egiſtus might eaſily perceiue, how both he & his were honoured for his friends ſake. Bellaria (who in her time was the Flowre of Courteſie) willing to ſhew how vnfainedly ſhe loued her husband, by his friends entertainment vſed him likewiſe ſo familiarly, that her countenance bewrayd how her heart was affected toward him: oftentimes comming herſelfe into his Bed-chamber, to ſee that nothing ſhould be amiſſe to diſlike him. This honeſt familiarity increaſed daily more and more betwixt them: for Bellaria noting in Egiſtus a Princely and bountifull mind, adorned with ſundry excellent qualities, & Egiſtus finding in her a vertuous & courteous diſpoſition, there grew ſuch a ſecret vniting of their affections, that the one could not wel be without the company of the other: inſomuch that when Pandoſto was hulled with ſuch vrgent affaires, that he could not be preſent with his friend Egiſtus, Bellaria would walke with him in the Garden, & there they two in priuate pleaſant deuices, would paſſe away their time to both their contents. This cuſtome ſtill continuing betwixt them, a certayne melancholy paſſion entring ỹ mind of Pandoſto, droue him into ſundry and doubtfull thoughts. Firſt, he called to mind the beauty of his wife Bellaria, the comlineſſe & bravery of his friend Egiſtus, thinking that loue was aboue all Lawes, & therfore to be ſtaied with no Law, that it was hard to put fire & flax together without burning, that their ỹe pleaſures might breed

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his ſecret diſpleaſures. He conſidered with himſelfe ꝑ Egiſtus was a man, and muſt needs loue: that his wife was a woman, and therfore ſubiect to loue: & that where fancy forced, friendſhip was of no force. Theſe & ſuch like doubtfull thoughts a long time ſmothering in his ſtomacke, began at laſt to kindle in his minde a ſecret miſtruſt, which, increaſed by ſuſpition, grew at laſt to flaming iealouſie, that ſo tormented him, as he could take no reſt. He then began to meaſure all their actions, and miſconſtrue of their too priuate familiarity, iudging that it was not for honeſt affection, but for diſordinate fancy: ſo as he began to watch them more narrowly, to ſee if hee could get any true or certaine proofe to confirme his doubtfull ſuſpition. While thus he noted her lookes & geſtures, and ſuſpected their thoughts and meanings, they two [illegible]doules, who doubted nothing of this his treacherous intent, frequented daily each others company: which drawe him into ſuch a franticke paſſion, that he began to beare a ſecret hate to Egiſtus, & a lowring countenance to Bellaria: who marueiling at ſuch vnaccuſtomed frownes, began to caſt beyond the Moone, and to enter into a Thouſand ſundry thoughts, which way ſhe ſhould offend her husband: but finding in her ſelfe a cleere conſcience, ceaſed to muſe, till ſuch time as ſhee might find opportunity to demand the cauſe of his dumps. In the meane time Pandoſtos mind was ſo farre charged with Iealouſie, that he no longer doubted, but was aſſured (as hee thought) that his friend Egiſtus entred a wrong point in his tables, & ſo had plaied him falſe play. Whereupon deſirous to reuenge ſo great an iniury, he thought beſt to diſſemble the grudg with a faire & friendly countenance: and ſo vnder the ſhape of a friend, to ſhew him the tricke of a foe: deuiſing with himſelfe a long time how he might beſt put away Egiſtus, without ſuſpition of treacherous murther, concluded at laſt to poyſon him. Which opinion pleaſing his humour, he became reſolute in his determination, & the better to bring ꝑ matter to paſſe, he called to him his cupbearer, with whome in ſecret he brake the matter: promiſing him for the performance thereof, to giue him a thouſand Crownes of yearly reuenue. His Cupbearer, either being of a good conſcience, or willing for fashions ſake to deny ſuch a bloody requeſt, began with great reaſons to perſwade Pandoſto

from

from his determinate miſchiefe: ſhewing him what an offence murther was to the gods, how much vnnaturall actions did more diſpleaſe the heauens, then men: and that cauſles cruelty did ſeldome or neuer eſcape without reuenge: he laid before his face, that Egiſtus was his friend, a King, & one that was come into his kingdome, to confirme a league of perpetuall amitie betwixt thē, that he had & did ſhew him a moſt friendly countenance: how Egiſtus was not onely honored of his own people by obedience, but alſo loued of the Bohemians for his courteſie: And that if he now ſhould, without any iuſt or manifeſt cauſe, poyſon him, it would not onely be a great diſhonor to his Maieſty, and a meanes to ſhew a perpetuall enmity betwēn ỹ Sycilians and the Bohemians, but alſo his owne ſubiects would repine at ſuch trecherous cruelty. Theſe & ſuch like perſwaſions of Franion (for ſo was his cupbearer called) could no whit preuaile to diſſwade him from his diuelliſh enterpriſe: but remaining reſolute in his determination (his fury ſo fired with rage, as it could not be appeaſed with reaſon) he began with bitter taunts to take vp his man, & to lay before him two baits, preferment and death: ſaying, that if he would poyſon Egiſtus, he would aduance him to high dignities: if he refuſed to doe it of an obſtinate minde, no torture ſhould bee too great to requite his diſobedience. Franion, ſeeing that to perſwade Pandoſto any more, was but to ſtriue againſt the ſtreame, conſented as ſone as opportunity wold giue him leaue, to diſpatch Egiſtus: wherwith Pandoſto remained ſomewhat ſatisfied, hoping now hee ſhould be fully reuenged of ſuch miſtraſted iniuries, intending alſo as ſone as Egiſtus was dead, to giue his wife a ſop of the ſame ſauce, & ſo be rid of thoſe which were ỹ cauſe of his reſtles ſorrow: while thus he liued in this hope, Franion being ſecret in his chamber, began to meditate with himſelfe in theſe tearmes.

AH Franion, treaſon is loued of many, but the traitor hated of all, vniuſt offences may for a time eſcape without danger, but neuer without reuenge. Thou art ſeruant to a king, & muſt obey at commaund: yet, Franion, againſt law & conſcience, it is not good to reſiſt a tyrant wō armes, nor to pleaſe an vniuſt King with obedience. What ſhalt thou doe? Folly refuſed

gold, and frenzy preferment; wiſedome ſeeketh after dignity, and counſell loketh for gaine: Egiſtus is a ſtranger to thee, & Pandoſto thy Soueraigne: Thou haſt little cauſe to reſpect the one, and oughteſt to haue great care to obey the other. Thinke this, Franion, that a pound of Gold is worth a Tunne of lead: great gifts are little gods; and preferment to a meane man, is a whet-ſtone to courage. There is nothing ſweeter then promotion, nor lighter then report: care not then though moſt count thee a traytor, ſo all call thee rich. Dignity, Franion, adnameth thy poſterity, and euill report can but hurt thy ſelfe. Know this where Eagles build, Faulcons may prey: where Lyons haunt, Foxes may ſcale. Kings are knowne to command, ſeruants are blameles to conſent; feare not thou then to liſt at Egiſtus, Pandoſto ſhall beare the burthen. Yea, but Franion, conſcience is a worme that euer biteth, but neuer ceaſeth. That which is rubbed with the ſtone Galactites, will neuer bee hot. Fleſh dipped in the Sea Ægeum, will neuer bee ſweet. The Herbe Trigion, being once bit with an Aſpis, neuer groweth: and conſcience once ſtayned with innocent bloud, is alwaies tied to a guilty remorſe. Preferre thy content before riches, & a cleare minde before dignity: ſo being poore, thou ſhalt haue rich peace, or elſe rich, thou ſhalt enioy diſquiet.

FRanion hauing muttered out theſe or ſuch like words, ſeeing either he muſt die with a cleare mind, or liue with a ſpotted conſcience: hee was ſo cumbred with diuers cogitations, that he could take no reſt, vntill at laſt he determined to breake the matter to Egiſtus: but fearing that the King ſhould either ſuſpect or heare of ſuch matters, he concealed the deuice till opportunitie would permit him to reueale it. Lingring thus in doubtfull feare, in an Euening he went to Egiſtus lodging, & deſirous to ſpeake with him of certayne affaires that touched the King, after all were commanded out of the Chamber. Franion made manifeſt the whole conſpiracy which Pandoſto had deuiſed againſt him, deſiring Egiſtus not to account him a traitor for bewraying his Maſters counſell, but to thinke that hee did it for conſcience ſake, hoping that although his Maſter inflamed with rage, or incenſed by ſome ſiniſter reports, or ſlanderous

ſpeeches,

ſpeeches, had imagined ſuch cauſleſſe miſchiefe, yet when time ſhould paciſie his anger, & try thoſe talebearers but flattering Paraſites, then hee would count him as a faithfull Seruant, that with ſuch care had kept his maiſters credit. Egiſtus had not fully heard Franion tell forth his Tale, but a quaking feare poſſeſſed all his limmes, thinking that there was ſome treaſon wrought, & that Franion did but ſhadow his craft with theſe falſe colours: wherefore he began to ware incholler, and ſayd, that he doubted not Pandoſto, ſith he was his friend, and there had neuer as yet beene any breath of amitie: he had not ſought to inuade his Lands, to conſpire with his enemies, to diſſwade his Subiects from their allegiance: but in word and thought he reſted his at all times: he knew not therefore any cauſe, that ſhould moue Pandoſto to ſeeke his death, but ſuſpected it to bee a compacted knauery of the Bohemians, to bring the King and him at odds. Franion ſtaying him in the midſt of his talke, told him, That to dally with Princes was, with ỳ Swannes to ſing againſt their death, and that if the Bohemians had intended any ſuch miſchiefe, it might haue beene better brought to paſſe, then by reuealing the conſpiracy: therefore his Maieſty did ill, to miſconſtrue of his good meaning, ſith his intent was to hinder treaſon, not to become a Traytor: and to confirme his promiſes, if it pleaſed his Maieſty to flye into Sycilia, for the ſafeguard of his life: hee would goe with him: and if then hee found not ſuch a practiſe to be pretended, let his imagined treachery be repayed with moſt monſtrous torments. Egiſtus hearing the ſolemne proteſtations of Franion, beganne to conſider, that in Loue and Kingdomes, neither Faith nor Law is to be reſpected: doubting that Pandoſto thought by his death to deſtroy his Men, and with ſpeedie Warre to inuade Sycilia. Theſe and ſuch doubts throughly weighed, hee gaue great thankes to Franion, promiſing, if hee might with life returne to Syracuſa, that hee would create him a Duke in Sycilia: craning his counſell how he might eſcape out of the Countrey. Franion who hauing ſome ſmall skill in Nauigation, was well acquainted with the Ports & Hauens, and knew euery danger in the Sea, ioyning in counſell with the Maiſter of Egiſtus Nauy, rigged all their ſhips,

and setting them afloat, let them lie at anchor, to be in the more readinesse, when time & wind should serue. Fortune, although blind, yet by chance, fauouring this iust cause, sent them within sixe dayes a good gale of wind: which Franion seeing fit for their purpose, to put Pandosto out of suspition, the night before they should saile, he went to him and promised, that the next day he would put the deuice in practise; for he had got such a forcible poyson, as the very smell thereof would procure sudden death. Pandosto was ioyfull to heare this good newes, & thought euery houre a day, till he might be glutted with bloudy reuenge: but his suit had but ill successe: for Egistus fearing that delay might breed danger, and willing that the grasse should not be cut from vnder his feet, taking bag & baggage, by the helpe of Franion conueyed himselfe, & his men, out at the Posterne gate of the Citty, so secretly, and spedily, that without any suspition they got to the sea shore: where, with many a bitter curse, taking their leaue of Bohemia, they went aboord, weighing their Anchors, & hoisting saile, they passed as fast as wind & sea would permit towards Sycilia: Egistus being a ioyfull man, for he had safely passed such treacherous perils. But as they were quietly floating on the sea, Pandosto and his Citizens were in an vproare: for seeing that the Sycilians without taking their leaue were fled away by night, the Bohemians feared som treason, and the King thought that without question his suspition was true, seeing the Cupbearer had bewrayed the sum of his secret pretence. Whereupon he began to imagine that Franion & his wife Bellaria had conspired with Egistus, and that the feruent affection she bare him, was the onely meane of his secret departure: insomuch, that incensed with rage, he commaunded that his wife should be carried straight to prison, vntill they heard further of his pleasure. The Guards vnwilling to lay their hands on such a vertuous Princesse, and yet fearing the Kings fury, went very sorrowfull to fulfill their charge: comming to the Queenes Lodging, they found her playing with her young Sonne Garinter: vnto whom with teares doing the message, Bellaria astonished at such a hard censure, and finding her cleare conscience a sure aduocate to plead in her cause, went to the Prison most willingly: where with sighes and

teares

teares she past away the time, till she might come to her tryall.

But Pandosto, whose reason was surpressed with rage, and whose vnbridled Folly was incensed with fury, seeing Franion had bewrayed his secrets, and that Egistus might well be railed on, but not reuenged: determined to wreake all his wrath on poore Bellaria. He therefore caused a generall proclamation to be made through all his Realme, that the Queene and Egistus had by the helpe of Franion, not onely committed most incestuous adultery, but also had conspired the Kings death: whereupon the traitor Franion was fled away with Egistus, & Bellaria was most iustly imprisoned. This Proclamation being once blazed through the country, although the vertuous disposition of the Queene did halfe discredit the contents, yet so suddaine and speedy message of Egistus, & the secret departure of Franion induced them (the circumstances throughly considered) to think that both the Proclamation was true, & the King greatly enuied: yet they pittied her case, as sorrowfull that so good a Lady should be crossed with such aduerse Fortune. But the King, whose restlesse rage would admit no pitty, though that although he might sufficiently requite his wiues falshood with the bitter plague of pinching penurie, yet his minde should neuer be glutted with reuenge, til he might haue fit time and opportunity to repay the trechery of Egistus, with a fatall iniury. But a curst Cow hath often-times short hornes, and a willing mind but a weake arme. For Pandosto, although he felt that reuenge was a spurre to warre, & that enuy alwaies proffereth steele, yet he saw, that Egistus was not only of great puissance and prowesse to withstand him, but had also many Kings of his alliance to ayd him, if need should serue: for he married the Emperours daughter of Russia. These and the like considerations something danted Pandosto his courage, so that he was content rather to put vp a manifest iniury with peace, then hunt after reuenge, dishonour and losse: determining, since Egistus had escaped scot-free, that Bellaria should pay for all at an vnreasonable price.

Remayning thus resolute in his determination, Bellaria continuing still in Prison, & hearing the contents of the Proclamation, knowing that her minde was neuer touched with

such affection, nor ỹ Egistus had euer offered her such discourtesie, would gladly haue come to her answer, ỹ both she might haue knowne her iust accusers, & cleered her selfe of that guiltlesse crime.

But Pandosto was so enflamed with rage, and infected with Iealousie, as he would not vouchsafe to heare her, nor admit any iust excuse; so that shee was fayne to make a vertue of her need, and with patience to beare these heauy iniuries. As thus shee lay crossed with calamities (a great cause to increase her griefe) shee found her selfe quicke with child: which as soone as she felt stir in her body, shee burst forth into bitter teares, exclayming against Fortune in these termes.

ALas, Bellaria, how infortunate art thou, because fortunate? Better thou hadst beene borne a Beggar then a Prince, so shouldest thou haue deuided Fortune with want, where now shee sporteth her selfe with thy plenty. Ah happie life, where poore thoughts, and meane desires liue in secure content, not fearing Fortune, because too low. For Fortune, thou seest now, Bellaria, that care is a companion to Honor, not to pouerty: that high Cedars are crushed with tempests, when low Shrubs are not touched with the Wind: precious Diamonds are cut with the File, when despised Pebble lyes safe in the sand: Delphos is sought to by Princes, not Beggars: and Fortunes Altars smoke with Kings presents, not with poore mens gifts. Happy are such, Bellaria, that curse Fortune for contempt, not feare: and may wish they were, not sorry they haue beene. Thou art a Princesse, Bellaria, and yet a prisoner: borne to the one by descent, assigned to the other by despight: accused without cause, & therefore oughtest to die without care: for patience is a shield against Fortune, and a guiltlesse mind yeeldeth not to sorrow. Ah, but infamy galleth vnto death, and liueth after death: Report is plumed with Times Feathers, and Enuy often-times soundeth Fames Trumpet: The suspected adultery shall lye in the Ayre, & thy knowne vertues shall lye hid in the Earth: one Moale staineth a whole Face; and what is once spotted with Infamy, can hardly be worne out with Time. Dye then, Bellaria, Bellaria dye, for if the gods should say, thou art guiltlesse,

leſſe, yet Enuy would heare the gods, but neuer beleeue the gods. Ah, hapleſſe wretch, ceaſe theſe Termes: Deſperate thoughts are fit for them that feare ſhame, not for ſuch as hope for credit. Pandoſto hath darkned thy fame, but ſhall neuer diſcredit thy Vertues. Suſpition may enter a falſe Action, but proofe ſhall neuer put in his Plea. Care not then for Enuy ſith Report hath a bliſter on her Tongue: and let ſorrow bite them which offend, not touch thee that art faultleſſe. But alas, poore Soule, how canſt thou but ſorrow? Thou art with Child, and by him, that inſtead of kind pitty, pincheth thee in cold Priſon. And with that, ſuch gaſping ſighes ſtopping her breath that ſhe could not vtter any more words, but wringing her hands, and guſhing forth ſtreames of teares, ſhe paſſed away the time with bitter complaints.

THe Jaylor pittying thoſe her heauy paſſions, thinking y if the King knew ſhe were with Child, he would ſomwhat appeaſe his fury, & releaſe her from priſon, went in all haſt, and certified Pandoſto what the effect of Bellaria's complaynt was: who no ſooner heard the Jaylor ſay ſhe was with Child, but as one poſſeſſed with a phrenzie, he roſe vp in a rage, ſwearing that ſhe, and the baſtard brat ſhee was withall, ſhould die, if the gods themſelues ſayd no: thinking ſurely by computation of time, that Egiſtus, & not he, was Father to the Child. This ſuſpitious thought galled afreſh his halfe-healed Sore, in ſo much as hee could take no reſt, vntill he might mittigate his choler with a iuſt reuenge, which happened preſently after. Bellaria was brought to bed of a fayre & beautifull Daughter, which no ſooner Pandoſto heard, but hee determined that both Bellaria & the young Infant ſhould be burnt with fire. His Nobles, hearing of the Kings cruell ſentence, ſought by perſwaſions to diuert him from his bloody determination: ſaying before his face, the innocency of the Child, & vertuous diſpoſition of his wife, how ſhe had continually loued and honoured him ſo tenderly, that without due proofe he could not, nor ought not to appeach her of that crime: and if ſhee had faulted, yet it were more honorable to pardon with mercy, then to puniſh with extreamitie, & more kingly, to be commended of pitty, then to diſcredit her. And

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as for the Child, if he would punish it for ỹ mothers offence, it were to strive against nature and iustice; and that unnaturall actions doe more offend the gods, then men: how cruelle cruelty, no innocent blood neuer escapes without reuenge. These and such like reasons could not appease his rage, but he rested resolute in this, that Bellaria being an Adultresse, ỹ child was a bastard, and he would not suffer that such an infamous Brat should call him Father. Yet at last (seeing his noble men were importunate vpon him) he was content to spare the childs life, and yet to put it to a worse death. For he found out this deuice, that fearing (as hee thought) it came by Fortune, so hee would commit it to the charge of Fortune, & therefore he caused a little cock-boate to be prouided, wherein he meant to put the babe, & then send it to the mercies of the seas and the destinies. From this his Pères in no wise could perswade him, but that he sent presently two of his Guard to fetch the Child: who being come to the Prison, and with weeping teares recounting their Maisters message. Bellaria no sooner heard the rigorous resolution of her mercielle husband, but shee fell downe in a swound, so that all thought she had been dead: yet at last being come to her selfe, she cryed and screeked out in this wise.

ALas, sweet infortunate Babe, scarce borne, before enuied by fortunate, would the day of thy birth had bẽn ỹ terme of my life: then shouldest thou haue made an end to care, and preuented thy Fathers rigour. Thy faults cannot yet deserue such hatefull reuenge, thy dayes are too short for so sharpe a doome: but thy untimely death must pay thy Mothers debts, and her guiltlesse crime must bee thy gastly curse. And shalt thou, sweet Babe, be committed to Fortune, when thou art already spighted by Fortune? Shall the Seas be thy harbour, & the hard boate thy cradle? Shall thy tender mouth, in stead of sweet kisses, be nipped with bitter stormes? Shalt thou haue the whistling windes for thy Lullaby, and the salt sea some in stead of sweet Pitie? Alas, what destinies would assigne such hard hap? What father would be so cruell? Or what gods will not reuenge such rigour? Let me kisse thy lips (sweet Infant) & wet thy tender Cheekes with my teares, and put this Chaine about

about thy little necke: that if Fortune ſaue thée, it may helpe to ſuccour thée. Thus, ſince thou muſt goe to ſurge in the gaſtfull Seas, with a ſorrowfull kiſſe I bid thée farewell, and I pray the gods thou maiſt fare well. Such & ſo great was her griefe that her vitall Spirits being ſuppreſt with ſorrow, thee fell againe downe in a trance, hauing her ſences ſo ſpotted with care, that after ſhee was reuiued, yet ſhée loſt her memorie, & lay for a great time without mouing, as one in a trance. The Guard left her in this perplexity, and carried the Child to the King: who quite deuoide of pitty, commanded that without delay it ſhould be put into the Boat, hauing neither Saile nor Rudder to guide it, & ſo to be carried into the midſt of the Sea, and there left to the wind and waues, as the Deſtinies pleaſe to appoint. The very Ship-men, ſéeing the ſweet countenance of the yong Babe, began to accuſe the King of rigour, and to pitty the Childs hard Fortune: but feare conſtrained them to that which their nature did abhor: ſo that they placed it in one of the ends of the Boat, and with a few gréene boughes made a homely Cabin to ſhroud it, as they could from wind and weather. Hauing thus trimmed a Boat, they tyed it to a ſhip, and ſo haled it into the maine Sea, & then cut in ſunder the Cord: which they had no ſooner done, but there aroſe a mighty Tempeſt, which toſſed the little Boat ſo vehemently in the waues, that the Ship-men thought it could not continue long without ſinking: yea the ſtorme grew ſo great, that with great labour and perill they got to the ſhore. But leauing the Child to her Fortunes, againe to Pandoſto: who not yet glutted with ſufficient reuenge, deuiſed which way hee ſhould beſt increaſe his wiues calamity. But firſt aſſembling his Nobles and Counſellors, hee called her (for the more reproach) in open Court, where it was obiected againſt her, that ſhe had committed adultery with Egiſtus, and conſpired with Franion to poyſon Pandoſto her Husband; but their pretence being partly eſpyed, ſhe counſelled them to fly away by night, for their better ſafety. Bellaria (who ſtanding like a priſoner at the Barre, and féeling in her ſelfe a cleere conſcience to withſtand her falſe accuſers) ſeeing no leſſe then death could pacifie her Husbands wrath, waxed bold, and deſired that ſhe might haue Law and Iuſtice: (for mercy ſhe neither craued nor hoped) and that thoſe perin-

red wretches, which had falsely accused her to the king, might be brought before her face to giue in euidence. Pandosto (whose rage and iealousie was such, as no reason nor equity could appease) told her, that for her accusers, they were of such credit, as their words were sufficient witnesse, & that the sodaine and secret flight of Egistus and Franion confirmed that which they had confessed: and as for her, it was her part to deny such a monstrous crime, and to bee impudent in forswearing the fact, since she had passed all shame in committing the fault: but her countenance should stand for no coyne: for as the bastard which shee bare was scorned, so shee should with some cruell death bee requited. Bellaria no whit dismaid, with this rough reply, told her Husband Pandosto, that hee spake vpon choller, and not conscience: for her vertuous life had euer beene such, as no spot of suspition could euer staine it. And if shee had borne a friendly countenance to Egistus, it was in respect he was his friend, and not for any lusting affection: therefore if shee were condemned without any further proofe it was rigour and not Law. The Noble-men which sate in Iudgement, said that Bellaria spake reason, and intreated the King that her accusers might be openly examined, & sworne: if then the euidence were such as the Iury might finde her guilty (for seeing shee was a Prince, she ought to be tried by her Peeres) then let her haue such punishment as the extreamity of the Law will assigne to such malefactors. The King presently made answer, that in this case hee might, and would dispence with the Law: And that the Iury being once panelled, they should take his word for sufficient euidence, otherwise hee would make the proudest of them repent it. The Noblemen seeing the King in choller, were all whist, but Bellaria, whose life hung in the ballance, fearing more perpetuall infamy, then momentany death, told the king, if his fury might stand for a Law, that it were vaine to haue the Iury yeeld their verdict, & therevpon she fell downe vpon her knees, and desired the King, that for the loue he bare to his yong Sonne Garinter, whom she brought into the world that hee would grant her a request, the which was this, that it would please his Maiesty to send fiue of his Noble-men whom he best trusted to the Ile of Delphos, there to inquire of the

Oracle of Apollo, whether ſhe had committed adultery with Egiſtus, or conſpired to poyſon him with Franion: and if the god Apollo, who by his diuine eſſence knowes all ſecrets, gaue anſwer that ſhe was guilty, ſhe was content to ſuffer any torment, were it neuer ſo terrible. The requeſt was ſo reaſonable, that Pandoſto could not for ſhame deny it, vnleſſe he would bee counted of all his Subiects more wilfull then wiſe. Yee therefore agreed, that with as good ſpéd as might bee, there ſhould be certaine Ambaſſadors diſpatcht to ỹ Ile of Delphos: and in the meane ſeaſon he commanded that his wife ſhould bée kept in cloſe Priſon. Bellaria hauing obtained this grant, was now more carefull of her little Babe that floated on the Seas, then ſorrowfull for her owne miſhap: for of that ſhee doubted; but of her ſelfe ſhée was aſſured: knowing that if Apollo ſhould giue ſentence according to the thoughts of her heart, yet the ſentence ſhould goe on her ſide, ſuch was the cléereneſſe of her mind in this caſe. But Pandoſto (whoſe ſuſpicious head ſtill remained in one ſong) choſe out ſix of his Nobility, whom he knew were ſcarce indifferent men in the Quéenes behalfe, and prouiding al things fit for their iourney, ſent them to Delphos. They willing to fulfill the kings commaund, and deſirous to ſée the ſituation and cuſtome of the Iſland, diſpatced their affaires with as much ſpeed as might bee, and embarked themſelues to the voyage, which, (the wind and weather ſeruing fit for their purpoſe) was ſone ended. For within thrée weéks they arriued at Delphos: where they were no ſooner ſet on Land, but with great deuotion they went to the Temple of Apollo, and there offering ſacrifice vnto the god, and gifts to the Prieſt, as the cuſtome was, they humbly craued an anſwer of their demaund. They had not long knéeled at the Altar, but Apollo with a loud voice ſayd: Bohemians what yee finde behinde the Altar, take, and depart. They forthwith obeyed the Oracle, found a ſcrowle of Parchment, wherein were written theſe words in Letters of Gold.

The Oracle.

Suſpition is no proofe: Iealouſie is an vnequall Iudge: *Bellaria* is chaſte: *Egiſtus* blameleſſe: *Franion* a true Subiect: *Pandoſto* treacherous, his Babe innocent, and the King ſhall dye without an heire, if that which is loſt be not found.

As soone as they had taken out this Scrowle, the Priest of the god commanded them, that they should not presume to read it, before they came to the presence of Pandosto, unlesse they would incurre the displeasure of Apollo. The Bohemian Lords carefully obeying his command, taking their leaue of the Priest, with great reuerence departed out of the Temple and went to their Ships: and as soone as Wind would permit them, sayled towards Bohemia, where in short time they safely arriued, and with great Triumph issuing out of their Ships, went to the Kings Palace, whom they found in his Chamber accompanied with other Noble-men. Pandosto no sooner saw them, but with a merry countenance he welcomed them home, asking what newes? They told his Maiesty, that they had receiued answer of the god written in a Scrowle: but with this charge, that they should not read the contents before they came in the presence of the King: and with that they deliuered him the Parchment. But his Noble-men intreated him, that sith therein were contained either the safety of his Wiues life and honestie, or her death, or perpetuall infamy; that he would haue his Nobles and Commons assembled in the Iudgement Hall, where the Quéene, brought in as a prisoner, should heare the contents: If shée were found guilty by the Oracle of the god, then all should haue cause to thinke his rigour proceeded of due desert: if her Grace were found faultlesse, then shee should be cléered before all, sith she had béen accused openly. This pleased the King, so that he appointed the day, and assembled all the Lords and Commons, and caused the Quéene to be brought in before the Iudgement Seat, commanding that the Iudgment should bee read: wherein shée was accused of Adultery with Egistus, and of conspiracy with Franion. Bellaria hearing the contents, was no whit astonished, but made this chéerefull answer.

If the diuine powers bee priuie to humane Actions, (as no doubt they are) I hope my patience shall make fortune blush, and my vnspotted life shall staine spitefull discredit. For although lying report hath sought to appeach mine honour, and suspition hath intended to soyle credit with infamie: yet where vertue

vertue kéepeth the Fort, report and ſuſpition may aſſaile, but neuer ſacke. How I haue led my life before Egiſtus comming, I appeale (Pandoſto) to the gods and to thy conſcience. What hath paſſed betweéne him and me, the gods onely know, and I hope will preſently reueale. That I loued Egiſtus, I cannot deny, that I honoured him, I ſhame not to confeſſe. To the one I was forced by his vertue; to the other for his dignities. But as touching laſciuious luſt, I ſay, Egiſtus is honeſt, and hope my ſelfe to be found without ſpot. For Franion, I can neither accuſe him nor excuſe him: I was not priuy to his departure: And that this is true which I haue héere rehearſed, I referre my ſelfe vnto the diuine Oracle.

BEllaria had no ſooner ſayd, but the King commanded that one of the Dukes ſhould read the contents of the Scrowle, which after the Commons had heard, they gaue a great ſhoute, reioycing and clapping their hands that the Quéene was cléere of that falſe accuſation. But the King, whoſe conſcience was a witneſſe againſt him of his witleſſe fury, and falſe ſuſpected Iealouſie, was ſo aſhamed of his rath folly, that hee intreated his Nobles to perſwade Bellaria to forgiue and forget theſe iniuries, promiſing not only to ſhew himſelfe a loyall and louing Husband, but alſo to reconcile himſelfe to Egiſtus & Franion: reuealing then before them all the cauſe of their ſecret flight, and how treacherouſly he thought to haue practiſed his death, if the good minde of his Cup-bearer had not preuented his purpoſe. As thus he was relating the whole matter, there was word brought him, that his young Sonne Garinter was ſodaynely dead: which newes ſo ſoone as Bellaria heard, ſurcharged before with extreame ioy, and now ſuppreſſed with heauy ſorrow, her vitall ſpirits were ſtopped, that ſhe fell downe preſently dead, and could neuer be reuiued. This ſudden ſight ſo appalled the Kings ſences, that he ſunke from his Seat in a ſwound, ſo as he was faine to be carried by his Nobles to his Palace, where he lay by the ſpace of thrée daies without ſpéech. His Commons were as men in deſpaire, ſo diuerſly diſtreſſed, there was nothing but mourning and lamentation to bee heard throughout all Bohemia: Their young Prince dead, their ver-

tuous Quéene bereaued of her life, and their King and Soueraigne in great hazzard: this tragicall discourse of Fortune so daunted them, as they went like shadowes, not men: yet somewhat to comfort their heauy hearts, they heard that Pandosto was come to himselfe, and had recouered his speech: who, as in fury, brayed these bitter speeches.

O Miserable Pandosto! what furer witnes then conscience? What thoughts more sowre then suspition? what plague more bad then Iealousie? Vnnaturall actions offend the gods, more then men: and causelesse cruelty neuer scapes without reuenge. I haue committed such a bloody fact, as repent I may, but recall I cannot. Ah Iealousie, a hell to the mind, and a horrour to the conscience, suppressing reason, and melting rage: a worse passion then frenzy, a greater plague then madnesse. Are the gods iust? then let them reuenge such brutish cruelty: my innocent Babe I haue drowned in the Seas: my louing Wife I haue slaine with slanderous suspition: my trusty friend I haue sought to betray: and yet the gods are slacke to plague such offences. Ah vniust Apollo, Pandosto is the man that hath committed the fault; why should Garinter, silly child, abide the paine? Well sith the gods meane to prolong my daies to increase my dolour, I will offer my guilty bloud a sacrifice to those guiltlesse soules, whose liues are lost by rigorous folly. And with that hee reached at a Rapier to haue murdered himselfe: but his Péeres being present, stayed him from such a bloody act: perswading him to thinke, that the Commonwealth consisted on his safety, and that those shéepe could not but perish that wanted a Shepheard: wishing that if he would not liue for himselfe, yet hée should haue a care of his Subiects, and to put such fancies out of his mind, sith in sores past helpe, salues doe not heale, but hurt: and in things past cure, care is a corrosiue. With these and such like perswasions, the king was ouercome, and began somewhat to quiet his minde: so that so soone as he could go abroad, he caused his wife to be imbalmed, and wrapt in Lead, with her young Sonne Garinter: erecting a rich and famous Sepulchre, wherein hée entombed them both, making such solemne obsequies at her Funerall, as all Bohe-

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nia might perceiue he did greatly repent him of his forepaſſed folly: cauſing this Epitaph to bee ingrauen on her Tombe, in Letters of Gold.

The Epitaph.

Heere lyes intombde Bellaria *faire,*
Falſly accus'd to be vnchaſte:
Cleer'd by Apollo's *ſacred doome.*
Yet ſlaine by Iealouſie at laſt.

What-ere thou be that paſſeſt by,
Curſe him that caus'd this Queene to dye.

THis Epitaph being engrauen, Pandoſto would once a day repaire to the Tombe, and there, with watry plaints, bewayle his misfortune: coueting no other companion but ſorrow, and no other harmonie but repentance. But leauing him to his dolorous paſſions, at laſt let vs come to ſhew the tragicall diſcourſe of the young Infant.

WHo being toſſed with wind and waues, floated two whole dayes without ſuccour, ready at euery puffe to bee drowned in the Sea: till at the laſt the tempeſt ceaſed & the little Boat was driuen with the tide into the Coaſt of Cycilia: where ſticking vpon the Sands, it reſted. Fortune minding to bee wanton, (willing to ſhew that as ſhee hath wrincles on her browes, ſo ſhe hath dimples in her cheekes) thought after ſo many ſowre lookes, to ſend a fayned ſmile; and after a puffing ſtorme, to bring a pretty calme, ſhee began thus to dally. It fortuned a poore mercenary Shepheard, that dwelled in Sycilia, who got his liuing by other mens Flockes, miſſed one of his ſheepe, & thinking it had ſtrayed into the couert that was hard by, ſought very diligently to find that which hee could not ſee, fearing either that ỹ Wolues or Eagles had vndone him, (for he

he was so poor, as a Shæpe was halfe his substance) wandred downe towards the Sea-cliffes, to sée if perchance the Shæpe was browzing on the Sea-Ivy, whereon they doe greatly fæd. But not finding her there, as hee was ready to returne to his Flocke, he heard a Childcry: but knowing there was no house nére, thought he had mistaken the sound, and that it was the bleating of his Shæpe. Wherefore loking more narrowly, as he cast his eye to the Sea, he espied a little Boat, from whence (as he attentiuely listned) he might heare a cry to come. Standing a good while in a maze, at last he went to the shore, and wading to the Boat, as he loked in, he saw a little Babe lying all alone, ready to die for hunger and cold, wrapped in a Mantle of Scarlet, richly embrothered with Gold, and hauing a Chaine about her necke. The Shepheard, who before had neuer seene so faire a Babe, nor for rich Iewels, thought assuredly ẏ it was some little god, and began with great deuotion to knocke on his brest. The Babe, who writhed with the Head to séeke for the Pap, began againe to cry afresh: whereby the poore man knew that it was a child, which by some sinister meanes was driuen thither by distresse of weather: marualling how such a silly Infant, which by the mantle & the chaine could not but be borne of Noble parentage, should bee so hardly crossed with deadly mishap. The poore Shepheard perplexed thus with diuers thoughts, tooke pitty of the child, and determined with himselfe to carry it to the king, that there it might be brought vp, according to the worthinesse of its birth: for his ability could not afford to foster it, though his minde was willing to further it. Taking therefore the child in his armes, as he folded the Mantle together, the better to defend it from ẏ cold, there fell downe at his foot a very faire & rich purse, wherein he found a great sum of Gold: which sight so reuiued the Shepheards spirits, as hée was greatly rauished with ioy, & daunted with feare: ioyfull to sée such a sum in his power; fearefull if it should be known, that it might bréed his further danger. Necessity willed him at the least to retayne the gold, though hé would not kéepe the Child: the simplicity of his conscience feared him from such deceitfull bribery. Thus was the poore man perplexed with a doubtfull Dilemma, vntill at last the couetousnesse of the coyne ouercame him:

him: for what will not the greedy deſire of gold cauſe a man to doe? So that he was reſolued in himſelfe to foſter the child, & with the ſumme to releiue his wank. Reſting thus reſolute in this poynt, he left ſeeking his ſheepe, and as couertly & ſecretly as hee could, went a by-way to his Houſe, leaſt any of his Neighbours ſhould perceiue his carriage. As ſoone as he was got home, entring in at the doore, the child began to cry, which his wife hearing, and ſeeing her husband with a young babe in his armes, began to be ſomewhat iealous: yet maruelling that her husband would be ſo wanton abroad, ſith hee was ſo quiet at home. But as women are naturally giuen to beleeue the worſt, ſo his wife thinking it was ſome baſtard, began to crow againſt her good man, and taking vp a cudgell (for the moſt maſters went breechleſſe) ſware ſolemnely, that ſhee would make Clubs trump, if he brought any baſtard brat within her doores. The good-man ſeeing his wife in her Maieſty, with her mace in her hand, thought it was time to bow, for feare of blowes and deſired her to be quiet, for there was no ſuch matter: but if ſhe could hold her peace, they were made for euer. And with that he told her the whole matter: how hee had found the child in a little Boat, without any ſuccour, wrapped in that coſtly Mantle, & hauing that rich chaine about her necke: but at laſt when he ſhewed her the purſe full of gold, ſhee began to ſimper ſomething ſweetly. And taking her husband about his necke, kiſſed him after her homely faſhion: ſaying, ỳ ſhe hoped, God had ſeene their want, and now meant to releiue their pouerty, and ſeeing they could get no children, had ſent them this little babe to be their Heire. Take heed in any caſe (ſayth the ſhepheard) that you be ſecret, and blab it not out when you meete with your Goſſips. For if you doe, we are not like not only to loſe the Gold and Iewels, but our other goods and liues. Tuſh (quoth his wife) profit is a good hatch before the doore: Feare not, I haue other thinges to talke of, then this, but I pray you let vs lay vp the money ſurely, and the Iewels, leſt by any miſhapit be eſpied. After that they had ſet all things in order, the Shepheard went to his ſheepe with a merry note, & the good wife learned to ſing Lullabie at home with her young babe, wrapped it in a homely blanket, in ſtead of a rich mantle,

nouriſhing it ſo cleanly and carefully, as it began to be a iolly Girle: inſomuch that they began both of them to be very fond of it, and as it waxed in age, ſo it increaſed in Beauty. The Shepheard euery night at his comming home, would ſing and dance it on his knee, and prattle, that in ſhort time it began to ſpeake, and call him Dadde, and her Mam. At laſt, when it grew to riper yeares, that it was about ſeauen yeeres old, the Shepheard left keeping of other mens ſheepe, and with the money hee found in the purſe, hee bought him the leaſe of a pretty Farme, and got a ſmall flocke of Sheepe: which when Fawnia (for ſo they named the child) came to the age of ten yeers, he ſet her to keepe ſheepe, and ſhee with ſuch diligence perfourmed her charge, as the Sheepe proſpered maruellouſly vnder her hand. Fawnia thought Porrus had beene her Father, and Mopſa her mother (for ſo was the Shepheard and his wife called) & honoured and obeyed them with ſuch reuerence, that all the neighbours praiſed the dutifull obedience of the Child. Porrus grew in ſhort time to be a man of ſome wealth and credit. For Fortune ſo fauoured him, in hauing no charge but Fawnia, that hee began to purchaſe Land, intending after his death to giue it to his Daughter: So that diuers rich Farmours Sonnes came as wooers to his houſe. For Fawnia was ſomething cleanly attired, being of ſuch ſingular beauty, and excellent wit, that who ſo ſaw her, would haue thought ſhee had beene ſome heauenly Nymph, and not a mortall Creature. In ſo much that when ſhee came to the Age of Sixteene yeares, ſhee ſo increaſed with exquiſite perfection both of Body and minde, as her naturall diſpoſition did bewray, that ſhe was borne of ſome high parentage. But the people thinking ſhe was the daughter to the Shepheard Porrus, reſted onely amazed at her beauty and wit. Yea, ſhee won ſuch fauour and commendations in euery mans eye, as her beauty was not onely praiſed in the Countrey, but alſo ſpoken of in the Court. Yet ſuch was her ſubmiſſe modeſty, that although her prayſe dayly increaſed, her minde was no whit puffed vp with pride, but humbled her ſelfe as became a country maid, and the daughter of a poore Shepheard. Euery day ſhe went forth with her ſheepe to ỹ field: keeping them with ſuch care and diligence, as all men thought ſhe was very paine-

full,

full, defending her face from the heat of the Sunne with no o-
ther vaile, but with a Garland made of Boughes and Flowers
Which attire became her ſo gallantly, as ſhee ſeemed to bee the
goddeſſe Flora her ſelfe for beauty. Fortune who all this while
had ſhewed a friendly face, began now to turne her backe, and
to ſhew a lowring countenance: intending as ſhee had given
Fawnia a ſlender Checke, ſo ſhe would giue her a harder Fate.
To bring which to paſſe, ſhee layd her trayne on this wiſe: Egi-
ſtus had but one onely Sonne called Doraſtus, about the age of
Twenty yeares: a Prince ſo decked and adorned with the gifts
of Nature, ſo fraught with beauty and vertuous qualities, as
not onely his Father loved to haue ſo good a Son, but his Com-
mons reioyced that God had ſent them ſo noble a prince to ſuc-
ceed in the Kingdome. Egiſtus, placing all his ioy in the perfec-
tion of his ſonne (being now marriageable) ſent Em-
baſſadours to the King of Denmarke, to intreat a marriage be-
tweene him and his daughter. Who willingly conſenting, made
anſwer, that the next ſpring, if it pleaſed Egiſtus with his Son
to come into Denmarke, hee doubted not, but they ſhould agree
vpon reaſonable conditions. Egiſtus reſting ſatisfied with this
friendly anſwer, thought conuenient in y meane time to breake
it vnto his Sonne. Finding therefore on a day fit opportunity,
he ſpake to him in theſe fatherly termes.

DOraſtus, thy youth warneth me to preuent the worſt, and
mine age to prouide the beſt. Opportunities neglected, are
ſignes of folly: Actions meaſured by time, are ſeldome bitten
with repentance. Thou art young, and I old: Age hath taught
me that, which thy youth cannot conceiue.

I therefore will counſell thee as a Father, hoping thou wilt
obey as a childe. Thou ſeeſt, my white haires are bloſſomes for
the Graue: and thy freſh colours, Fruit for time and Fortune:
ſo that it behooueth mee, to thinke how to dye: and for thee, to
care how to liue. My Crowne I muſt leaue by death, and
thou enioy my Kingdome by ſucceſſion. Wherein, I hope, thy
Vertue and Proweſſe ſhall bee ſuch, as though my Subiects
want my perſon, yet ſhall ſee in thee my perfection. That

nothing either may faile to satisfie thy mind, or increase thy dignities: the onely care I haue, is to see thée well married before I die, and thou become old.

Dorastus (who from his infancy, delighted rather to die with Mars in the Field, then to dally with Venus in the Chamber) fearing to displease his Father, and yet not willing to be wed, made him this reuerend answer.

SIr, there is no greater Bond then duty, nor no stricter Law then Nature: disobedience in youth, is often galled with despight in age. The command of the Father ought to be a constraint to the Child: so Parents wils are Lawes, so they passe not all Lawes. May it please your Grace therefore, to appoint whom I shall loue: rather then by deniall I should be appeached of disobedience, I rest content to loue, though it bee the onely thing I hate.

Egistus hearing his Sonne to flie farre from the marke, began to be somewhat chollericke, and therefore made him this answere.

WHat, Dorastus, canst thou not loue? Commeth this Cinicall passion of proud desires, or peeuish frowardnes? What, dost thou thinke thy selfe too good for all, or none good enough for thée? I tell thée, Dorastus, there is nothing swéeter then youth: nor swifter decreasing, while it is increasing. Time past with folly, may be repented, but not recalled. If thou marrie in age, thy Wiues fresh coulours will breed in thee dead thoughts and suspition, and thy white hayres her loathsomnes and sorrow. For Venus affections are not fed with kingdomes, or Treasures, but with youthfull conceits, and swéet amours. Vulcan was allotted to shake the Trée, but Mars allowed to reape the fruit. Yéeld (Dorastus) to thy Fathers perswasions, which may preuent thy perils. I haue chosen thée a wife, faire by Nature, Royall by Birth, by vertues famous, Learned by education, and rich by Possessions: so that it is hard to iudge whether her Bounty or Fortune, her Beauty or Vertue bée of greater force: I meane (Dorastus) Euphania, Daughter and Heire to the King of Denmarke.

Egistus

Egiſtus paſſing here a while, loking when his Son ſhould make him anſwer; and ſeeing that hee ſtood ſtill, as one in a traunce, he ſhooke him vp thus ſharpely.

VVEll (Doraſtus) take heed, the Tree Alpya wasteth not with fire, but withereth with dewe: that which loue nouriſheth not, periſheth with hate. If thou like Euphania, thou breedeſt my content; & in louing her, thou ſhalt haue my loue: otherwiſe: and with that hee flung from his Sonne in a rage, leauing him a ſorrowfull man, in that he had by dentall diſpleaſed his Father: and halfe angry with himſelfe, that he could not yeeld to that paſſion, whereto both reaſon and his Father perſwaded him. But ſee how Fortune is plumed with Times Feathers, and how ſhe can miniſter ſtrange cauſes, to breede ſtrange effects.

It hapned not long after this, that there was a meeting of all the Farmoza daughters in Sycilia, whether Fawnia was alſo bidden as the Miſtreſſe of the Feaſt: who having attired her ſelfe in her beſt garments, went amongſt the reſt of her companions to a merry meeting: there ſpending the day in ſuch homely paſtime as Shepheards vſe. As the Euening grew on, and their ſport ceaſed, each taking their leaue of other: Fawnia deſiring one of her companions to beare her company, went home by the Flocke, to ſee if they were well folded. And as they returned, it fortuned that Doraſtus (who all that day had beene hawking, and killed store of game) incountred by the way theſe two maides; fearing that with Acteon he had ſeene Diana: for hee thought ſuch exquiſite perfection could not be found in any mortall creature. As thus he ſtood in a maze, one of his Pages told him, that ỹ mayd with the garland on her head, was Fawnia, the faire Shepheardeſſe, whoſe beauty was ſo much talked of in the Court. Doraſtus deſirous to ſee if nature had adorned her mind with any inward qualities, as ſhe had decked her body with outward ſhape, began to queſtion with her whoſe daughter ſhe was, of what age, and how ſhee had beene trayned vp? who anſwered him with ſuch modeſt reuerence and ſharpnes of wit, that Doraſtus thought her outward beauty was but a

counterfeit to darken her inward qualities: wondring how so courtly behaviour could be found in so simple a Cottage; and cursing Fortune, that had shaddowed wit and beauty with such hard Fortune. As thus he held her a long time with chat, beautie seeing him at discouert, thought not to lose the vantage, but stroake him so deepely with an inuenomed shafte, as he wholly lost his liberty, and became a Slaue to Loue, which before contemned loue, glad now to gaze vpon a poore shepheardesse, who before refused the offer of a rich Princesse. For the perfection of Fawnia had so fired his Fancie, as he felt his minde greatly changed, and his affection altered; cursing Loue, that had wrought such a change, and blaming the basenesse of his mind, that would make such a choyce. But thinking these were but passionate toyes that might be thrust out at pleasuer: to auoyd the Syren that inchanted him, he spurs his Horse, and bad his faire Shepheardesse faaewell.

Fawnia (who all this while had marked the Princely gesture of Dorastus) seeing his Face so well featured, and each limb so perfectly framed, began greatly to prayse his perfection, commending him so long, till she found her selfe faulty: and perceiued that if she waded but a little further, she might slip ouer the shooes. She therefore seeking to quench that fire which neuer was put out, went home, and faining her selfe not well at ease, got her to bed: where casting a thousand thoughts in her head, shee could take no rest: for if she had waked, shee began to call to mind his beauty: and thinking to beguile such thoughts with sleepe, she then dreamed of his perfection. Pestered with these vnacquainted passions, she passed the night as she could in short slumbers.

Dorastus (who all this while rode with a Flea in his eare) could not by any meanes forget the sweete fauour of Fawnia, but rested so bewitched with her witt and beauty, as hee could take no rest. He felt fancie to giue the assault, and his wounded mind ready to yeeld as vanquished: yet hee began with diuers considerations to suppresse his franticke affection, calling to mind, that Fawnia was a Shepheardesse, one not worthy to be looked at of a Prince, much lesse to be loued of such a Potentate: thinking what a discredit it were to himselfe, and what a

griefe

griefe it would be to his Father: blaming fortune, and accuſing his owne folly, ſ ſhould be ſo fond, as but once to caſt a glance at ſuch a country ſlut. And as thus he was raging againſt himſelfe, Loue (fearing if ſhee dallyed long, to loſe her Champion) kept more nigh, and gaue him ſuch a freſh wound, as it pierſt him at the heart, that hee was faine to yéld maugre his face, & to forſake the company, and get him to his Chamber, where being ſolemnly ſet, he burſt into theſe paſſionate termes.

Ah Doraſtus, art thou alone? No, not alone, while thou art tyed with theſe vnacquainted paſſions. Yéld to fancy thou canſt not by thy Fathers counſell: but in a frenzie thou art, by iuſt deſtinies. Thy father were content, if thou couldeſt loue: and thou therefore diſcontent, becauſe thou doſt loue. Diuine Loue, feare of men, becauſe honoured of gods: not to be ſuppreſſed by wiſedome, becauſe not to be comprehended by reaſon: without law, and therefore aboue law.

How then Doraſtus? why doſt thou blaze that with praiſes which thou haſt cauſe to blaſpheme with curſes? Yet why ſhould they curſe loue, which are in loue?

Bluſh Doraſtus at thy Fortune, thy choice, thy loue: thy thoughts cannot be vttered without ſhame, nor thy affections without diſcredit. Ah, Fawnia, ſweet Fawnia, thy beauty Fawnia.

Shameſt not thou, Doraſtus, to name one vnfit for thy birth, thy Dignities, thy Kingdomes? Die, Doraſtus, Doraſtus, dye. Better hadſt thou periſh with high deſires, than liue in baſe thoughts. Yea, but beauty muſt be obeyed, becauſe it is beauty: yet framed of the gods to feed the eye, not to fetter the heart.

Ah, but he that ſtriueth againſt loue, ſhooteth with them of Scyrum againſt the Wind, and with the Cockatrice pecketh againſt the Steele. I will therefore obey, becauſe I muſt obey. Fawnia yea Fawnia ſhall be my Fortune, in ſpight of fortune. The gods aboue diſdaine not to loue Women beneath. Phœbus liked Daphne; Iupiter, Iô: and why not I then Fawnia? one ſomething inferiour to theſe in birth, but farre ſuperiour to them in beauty: borne to be a Shepheardeſſe, but worthy to be a Goddeſſe.

Ah

Ah, Doraſtus, will thou forget thy ſelfe, as to ſuffer affection to ſuppreſſe wiſdome, and loue violate thine honour? How ſowre will thy choyce be to thy Father, ſorrowfull to thy Subiects, to thy friends a griefe, moſt gladſome to thy foes? Subdue then thy affection, and ceaſe to loue her whom thou couldeſt not loue, vnleſſe blinded with too much loue. Fond, I talke to the wind, and in ſeeking to preuent the cauſes, I further the effects, I will yet praiſe Fawnia, honour, yea & loue Fawnia, and at this day follow content, not counſell. Doe Doraſtus, thou canſt not repent: and with that, his Page came into the chamber: whereupon he ceaſed from complaints, hoping that time would weare out that which Fortune had wrought. As thus he was pained, ſo poore Fawnia was diuerſly perplexed. For the next morning getting vp very early, ſhee went to her Sheepe, thinking with hard labours to paſſe away her new conceiued amours, beginning very buſily to driue them to the field and then to ſhift the folds. At laſt, wearied with toyle, ſhe ſate her downe, (where poore ſoule) ſhe was more tyred with fond affection. For loue began to aſſault her, inſomuch that as ſhee ſate vpon the ſide of a Hill, ſhe began to accuſe her owne folly in theſe termes.

Infortunate Fawnia, And therefore infortunate, becauſe Fawnia, thy Shepheard Hooke ſheweth thy poore eſtate, thy proud deſires an aſpiring mind: the one declareth thy want, the other thy pride. No baſtard Hawke muſt ſoare to high as the Hobby, no Fowle gaze againſt the Sun, but the Eagle: Actions wrought againſt Nature, reape deſpight: and thoughts aboue Fortune, diſdaine.

Fawnia, thou art a Shepheard, Daughter to poore Porrus: if thou reſt content with this, thou art like to ſtand: if thou climb, thou art like to fall. The Herbe Anita growing higher then ſix Inches, becommeth a weede. Nylus flowing more then twelue Cubits, procureth a dearth. Daring affections that paſſe meaſure, are cut ſhort by time or Fortune. Suppreſſe then, Fawnia thoſe thoughts which thou maieſt ſhame to expreſſe. But ah, Fawnia, Loue is a Lord, who will command by power, and conſtraine by force.

Doraſtus

Doraſtus, ah Doraſtus is the man I loue: The woꝛſe is thy hap, and the leſſe cauſe haſt thou to hope. Will Eagles catch at Flyes? Will Cedars ſtoope at Brambles? Do mighty Princes looke at ſuch homely Truls? No, no, thinke this, Doraſtus, diſdayne is greater then thy deſire. He is a Prince, reſpecting his honour: Thou a Beggars brat forgetting thy calling. Ceaſe then not onely to ſay, but to thinke to loue Doraſtus: & diſſemble thy loue, Fawnia. For better it were to die with griefe, then to liue with ſhame. Yet in deſpight of Loue, I will ſigh, to ſee if I can ſigh out Loue. Fawnia, ſomewhat appeaſing her griefes with theſe pithy perſwaſions, began after her wonted manner to walke, about her ſheepe, and to keepe them from ſtraying into the Corne, ſuppreſſing her affection with the due conſideration of her baſe eſtate, & with the impoſſibilities of her loue, thinking it were frenzy (not fancy) to couet that which the very deſtenies deny her to obtaine.

But Doraſtus was more impatient in his paſſions: for loue ſo fiercely aſſaieled him, that neither Company, nor Muſicke could mittigate his Martyrdome: but did rather farthe more increaſe his Maladie. Shame would not let him craue counſell in this caſe: nor feare of his Fathers diſpleaſure, reueale it to any ſecret friend: but hee was faine to make a Secretarie of himſelfe, and to participate his thoughts with his owne troubled mind. Lingring thus a while in doubtfull ſuſpence, at laſt ſtealing ſecretly from the Court, without either men or Page, he went to ſee if hee could eſpie Fawnia walking abroad in the Field. But, as one hauing a great deale more skill to retaine the Partridge with the Spaniels, then to Hunt after ſuch a ſtrange prey, he ſought, but was little the better. Which croſſe luck draue him into a great choller, that he began both to accuſe Loue and Fortune. But as hee was ready to retyre, hee ſaw Fawnia ſitting all alone vnder the ſide of an Hill, making a Garland of ſuch homely flowers as the Fieldes did affoord. This ſight ſo reuiued his ſpirits, that he drew nigh, with more iudgement to make a view of her ſingular perfection: which hee found to be ſuch, as in that Countrey attyre ſhe ſtayned all the Courtly Dames of Sycilia. While thus he ſtood gazing with piercing lookes on her ſurpaſſing beauty, Fawnia caſt her eye

vide, and espyed Doraſtus. Which ſudden ſight made the poore Girle to bluſh, and to dye her chrystall cheeks with the Vermilion red: which gaue her ſuch a grace, as ſhe ſeemed farre more beautifull: and with that ſhe roſe vp, ſaluting the Prince with ſuch modeſt courteſies, as hee wondred how a Country mayd could affoord ſuch comely behauiour. Doraſtus repaying her courteſie with a ſmiling countenance, began to parle with her on this manner:

FAyre mayd (quoth he) either your want is great, or a Shepheards life is very ſweet, that your delight is in ſuch country labours. I cannot conceiue what pleaſures you ſhould take, vnleſſe you meane to imitate the Nymphs, being your ſelfe ſo like a Nymph. To put me out of this doubt, ſhew me what is to bee commended in a Shepheards life, and what pleaſures you haue to countervayle theſe drudging labours, Fawnia, with bluſhing face, made him this anſwer:

SIr, what richer ſtate then content: or what ſweeter life then quiet: We Shepheards are not borne to honour, nor beholding vnto beauty: the leſſe care wee haue to feare fame or fortune. We count our attyre braue enough, if warme enough and our food daynty, if to ſuffice Nature: our greateſt enemy is the Wolfe: our onely care in safe keeping our flocke: in ſtead of courtly Ditties, wee ſpend the dayes with country Songs: our amorous conceits are homely thoughts, delighting as much to talke of Pan and his Country prankes, as Ladyes to tell of Venus and her wanton toyes. Our toile is in ſhifting our folds and looking to the Lambes, eaſie labours: of ſitting and telling tales, homly pleaſures: our greateſt wealth, not to couet: our honour, not to climbe: our quiet, not to care. Enuy loketh not ſo low as Shepheards: Shepheards gaze not ſo high as ambition: we are rich, in that we are poore with content: and proud onely in this, that we haue no cauſe to be proud.

THis witty anſwer of Fawnia, ſo inflamed Doraſtus fancy, that he commending himſelfe for making ſo good a choyce: thinking, if her birth were anſwerable to her wit and Beauty, that

that ſhee were a fitt Mate for the moſt famous Prince in the world. Hee therefore began to caſt her more narrowly on this manner:

FAwnia, I ſee thou art content with country labours, becauſe thou knowest not Courtly pleaſures: I commend thy wit, and pitty thy want. But wilt thou leaue thy fathers Cottage, and ſerue a Courtly miſtreſſe?

Sir (quoth ſhe) beggers ought not to ſtriue againſt fortune, nor to gaze againſt honor; leaſt either their fall bee greater, or they become blind. I am borne to toyle for the Court, not in the Court: my nature vnfit for their nature: better liue in meane degree, then in high diſdayne.

Well ſayd, Fawnia (quoth Doraſtus) I geſſe at thy thoughts thou art in loue with ſome Country ſhepheard.

No ſir (quoth ſhe) ſhepheards cannot loue, that are ſo ſimple and mayds may not loue, that are ſo young.

May therefore (quoth Doraſtus) mayds muſt loue becauſe they are yong: for Cupid is a child, and Venus, though old, is paynted with freſh colours.

I grant (ſayd ſhe) age may be paynted with new ſhadows, and youth may haue imperfect affections: but, what Art concealeth in one, ignorance reuealeth in another. Doraſtus ſeeing Fawnia held him ſo hard, thought it was vayne ſo long to beat about the buſh: therefore hee thought to haue giuen her a freſh charge: but he was ſo preuented by certayne of his men, who miſſing their maſter, came poſting to ſeeke him, ſeeing that he was gone forth all alone: yet before they drew ſo nigh, that they might heare their talke, he vſed theſe ſpeeches:

Why, Fawnia, perhaps I loue thee, and then thou muſt néeds yéeld: for thou knowest I can command and conſtrayne. Tuſh Sir (quoth ſhée) but not to loue, for conſtrayned loue is force, not loue: And know this, Sir: mine honeſty is ſuch, as I had rather dye, then bee a Concubine euen vnto a King: and my birth is ſo baſe, as I am vnfit to be a wife vnto a poore farmor. Why then (quoth he) thou canſt not loue Doraſtus. Yes, ſayd Fawnia, when Doraſtus becomes a ſheepheard. And with that, the preſence of his men broke off their Parle, ſo that hee went

with them to the Pallace, & left Fawnia sitting still on the Hill side: who seeing that the night drew on, shifted her Folds and busied her selfe about other worke, to drive away such fond fancies as began to trouble her braine. But all this could not prevaile; for the beauty of Doraſtus had made such a deepe impreſſion in her heart, as it could not be worne out without cracking so that she was fayne to blame her owne folly in this wise:

Ah Fawnia, why dost thou gaze against the Sunne, or catch at the wind? Starres are to bee looked at with the eye, not reached at with the hand: thoughts are to be measured by fortunes, not by desires: fals comes not by sitting low, but by climing too high. What then, shal all feare to fall, because some hap to fall? No, lucke commeth by Lot, and Fortune windeth those Threads which the Destenies spin. Thou art favoured, Fawnia, of a Prince, and yet thou art so fond to reiect desired favours. Thou hast deniall at thy tongues end, and desire at thy hearts bottome. A Womans fault, to spurne at that with her foot, which she greedily catcheth at with her hand. Thou loueſt Doraſtus, Fawnia; and yet seemeſt to lowre. Make héd, if he retire, thou wilt repent: for vnleſſe he loue, thou canſt but dy. Dye then, Fawnia: for Doraſtus doth but ieſt. The Lyon neuer preyeth on the Mouſe: nor doe Fawlcons ſtoop to dead ſtales. Sit downe then in this ſorrow: ceaſe to loue, and content thy ſelfe, that Doraſtus will vouchſafe to flatter Fawnia, though not to fancy Fawnia. Heigh hoe: Ah fole, it were ſeemlier for thee to whiſtle as a Sheepheard, then to ſigh as a Louer: and with that she ceaſed from theſe perplexed paſſions, folding her Sheep, and hying home to her poore Cottage. But ſuch was the vnconſtant ſorrow of Doraſtus, to thinke on the wit and beauty of *Fawnia*, and to ſee how fond he was, being a Prince: and how froward she was, being a begger: that he began to loſe his wonted appetite: to looke pale and wan: in ſtead of mirth, he fed on Melancholly: for Courtly dances, to vſe colde dumps. Inſomuch, that not onely his owne men, but his father, and all the Court began to maruel at his ſudden change, thinking that ſome lingring ſickneſſe had brought him into this ſtate. Wherefore hee cauſed Phyſicians to come. But Doraſtus neyther

would

would let them miniſter, nor ſo much as ſuffer them to ſée his Wine: but remayned ſtill ſo oppreſſed with theſe paſſions, as hee feared in himſelfe a further inconuenience. His Honour wiſhed him to ceaſe from ſuch folly: but loue forced him more to follow fancy: yea, and in deſpight of Honour, Loue won the conqueſt, ſo that his hot deſires cauſed him to find new deuices. For he preſently made himſelfe a Shéepheards Coate, that hée might goe vnknowne, and with leſſe ſuſpition, to prattle with Fawnia: and conueyed it ſecretly into a thicke Groue, hard adioyning to the Palace: whither, finding fit time and opportunity, he went all alone, and putting off his Princely Apparel, got on thoſe Shepheards Robes, and taking a great Hooke in his hand (which hee alſo had gotten) hée went very anciently to find out the Miſtreſſe of his Affection. But as hee went by the way, ſéeing himſelfe clad in ſuch vnſéemely Rags, he began to ſmile at his owne folly, and to reproue his fondneſſe in theſe ſetines:

WEll ſayd, Doraſtus, thou kéepeſt a good decorum: baſe Deſires, and homely Attires: thy thoughts are fit for none but a Shepheard, and thy Apparell ſuch onely as becomes a Shepheard. A ſtrange change: from a Prince to a Peaſant. What, is it thy wretched fortune, or thy wilfull folly? Is it thy curſed Deſtenies, or thy croked deſires that appoynt thée this penance? Ah, Doraſtus, thou canſt but loue, and vnleſſe thou loue, thou art like to periſh for loue. Yet, fond Foole, chuſe Flowres, not Weédes: Diamonds, not Pebbles: Ladies which may honour thée, not Shepheards, which may diſgrace thée. Venus is paynted in Silkes, not in Rags, and Cupid treadeth on Diſdayne when he reacheth at Dignity. And yet Doraſtus, ſhame not at thy Shepheards Weéd: the heauenly gods haue ſomtime earthly thoughts: Neptune, became a Ram; Iupiter, a Bull; Apollo, a Shéepheard: they gods, and yet in loue: and thou a man appoynted to loue.

Deuiſing thus with himſelfe, hee drew nigh to the Place where Fawnia was kéeping her Shéepe: who caſting her eye aſide, and ſéeing ſuch a manerly Shepheard, perfectly lymmed, and comming with ſo good a pace, ſhée began halfe to forget

Doraſtus, & to fauour his pretty ſhepheard, whom ſhee thought ſhe might both loue & obtayn. But as ſhe was in theſe thoughts ſhe perceiued then it was the yong Prince Doraſtus: wherfore ſhe roſe vp, and reuerently ſaluted him. Doraſtus taking her by the hand, repayed her courteſie with a ſweet kiſſe, and praying her to ſit downe by him, he began thus to lay the battery;

IF thou maruell, *Fawnia* at my ſtrange attire, thou wouldſt more muſe at my vnaccuſtomed thoughts: the one diſgraceth but my outward ſhape: the other diſturbeth my inward ſenſes: I loue *Fawnia*, and therefore what loue liketh, I cannot miſlike. *Fawnia* thou haſt promiſed to loue, and I hope thou wilt performe no leſſe. I haue fulfilled thy requeſt, and now thou canſt not but grant my deſire. Thou wert content to loue Doraſtus when he ceaſt to be a Prince, & became a Shepheard, and ſee, I haue made a change, and therefore not to miſſe of my choyce.

TRuth, quoth fawnia: But all that weare Cowles, are not Monkes. Paynted Eagles are pictures, not Eagles: Zeuxis Grapes were like Grapes, yet ſhaddowes: rich cloathing make not Princes: nor homely attyre Beggers: Shepheards are not called ſhepheards, becauſe they weare hookes and Bags, but they are borne poore, and liue to kéepe ſhéepe: ſo this attyre hath not made Doraſtus a Shepheard, but to ſéeme like a Shepheard.

WEll, Fawnia, anſwered Doraſtus, were I a ſhepheard I could not but like thée; being a Prince, I am forced to loue thée. Take héed, Fawnia, bee not proud of Beauties painting; for it is a flowre that fadeth in the bloſſome. Thoſe which diſdayne in youth, are deſpiſed in age. Beauties ſhaddowes are trickt vp with times colours, which being ſet to dry in the Sunne, are ſtayned with the Sunne, ſcarce pleaſing the ſight: yet they begin not to be worth the ſight: not much vnlike the Yearbe Ephymeron, which flouriſheth in the Morning, and is withered before the Sun-ſetting. If my deſire were

againſt

againſt loue, thou mighteſt iuſtly deny me by reaſon: but I loue thée, Fawnia, not to miſuſe thée as a concubine, but to vſe thée as my Wife; I can promiſe no more, and meane to performe no leſſe.

Fawnia hearing this ſolemne protеſtation of Doraſtus, could no longer withſtand the aſſault, but yéelded vp the fort, in theſe friendly termes.

AH, Doraſtus, I ſhame to expreſſe ý thou forceſt me with thy ſugred ſpeech to confeſſe: my baſe Birth cauſeth the one, and thy high dignities the other. Beggars thoughts ought not to reach as farre as Kings, and yet my deſires reach as high as Princes. I dare not ſay, Doraſtus, I loue thée, becauſe I am a Shepheardeſſe: but the gods know, I haue honored Doraſtus (pardon, if I ſay amiſſe) yea, and loued Doraſtus, with ſuch dutifull affection, as Fawnia can performe, or Doraſtus deſire: I yéeld, not ouercome with prayers but with loue: reſting Doraſtus hand-maid, ready to obey his will, if no preiudice at all to his honour, nor my credit.

DOraſtus hearing this friendly concluſion of Fawnia, embraced her in his armes, ſwearing that neither diſtance, time, nor aduerſe Fortune ſhould diminiſh his affection: but that in deſpight of the deſtenies he would remaine faithfull to death. Hauing thus plight their troth each to other, ſéeing they could not haue the full fruition of their loue in Sycilia, for that Egiſtus conſent would neuer bee granted to ſo meane a match, Doraſtus determined, as ſoone as time and opportunity would giue him leaue, to prouide a great Maſſe of Money, and many rich and coſtly Iewels, for the eaſier carriage; and then to tranſport themſelues and their Treaſure into Italy, where they ſhould lead a contented life, vntill ſuch time as either hée could be reconciled to his Father, or elſe by ſucceſſion come to the Kingdome. This deuice was greatly praiſed of Fawnia: for ſhe feared, if the King his Father ſhould but heare of the contract, that his fury would be ſuch, as no leſſe then death ſhould ſtand for payment. Shee therefore told him, that delayed danger: that many miſhappes did fall out betweene the

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Cup and Lip: and that to a boyd danger, it were beſt with as much ſpéde as might bee, to paſſe out of Sycilia, leaſt fortune might preuent their Patience with ſome new deſpight. Doraſtus, whom loue pricked forward with deſire, promiſed to diſpatch his affaires with as great haſte, as either time or opportunity would giue him leaue: and ſo reſting vppon this point after many embracings and ſwéet kiſſes, they departed. Doraſtus, hauing taken his leaue, of his beſt beloued *Fawnia*, went to the Groue where he had his rich Apparell, & there vncaſing himſelfe as ſecretly as might be, hiding vp his Shepheards attire, till occaſion ſhould ſerue againe to vſe it, hee went to the Palace, ſhewing by his merry countenance, that either the ſtate of his body was amended, or the cauſe of his minde greatly addreſſed. *Fawnia*, poore Soule, was no leſſe ioyfull, that being a Shepheardeſſe, fortune had fauoured her ſo, as to reward her with the loue of a Prince: hoping in time to be aduanced from the Daughter of a poore farmour, to bee Wife to a rich King. So that ſhe thought euery houre a yéere, till by their departure they might preuent danger: not ceaſing ſtill to goe euery day to her Shéepe: not ſo much for the care of the flocke, as for the deſire ſhe had to ſee her Loue and Lord, Doraſtus: who oftentimes, when opportunity would ſerue, repaired thither to feed his fancy with the ſweet content of *Fawnia*'s preſence. And although he neuer went to viſite her, but in theſe Shepheards Ragges, yet his oft repayre made him not onely ſuſpected, but knowne to diuers of their Neighbours: who for the good will they bare to old Porrus, told him ſecretly of the matter, wiſhing him to kéepe his Daughter at home, leſt ſhe went ſo long to the field, that ſhe brought him home a young Sonne. For they feared that *Fawnia* being ſo beautifull, the young Prince would allure her to folly. Porrus was ſtricken in a dumpe at theſe newes, ſo that thanking his neighbours for their good will, hée hyed him home to his wife: and calling her aſide, wringing his hands, and ſhéding forth teares, hee brake the matter to her in theſe termes.

I Am afraid, Wife, that my Daughter *Fawnia* hath made her ſelfe to ſin, that ſhe will buy Repentance too deere. I heare

newes

rewes, which if they be true, ſome will wiſh they had not proued true. It is told me by my Neighbours, that Doraſtus the Kings Sonne begins to looke at our Daughter Fawnia: which if it be ſo, I will not giue her a halfe-peny for her honeſty at the yeeres end. I tell thee, wife, now a daies beauty is a great ſtale to trap young men, and faire words & ſweet promiſes are two great Enemies to Maydens honeſty: and thou knoweſt, where poore men intreat, & cannot obtaine, there Princes may command, and will obtaine. Though Kings Sonnes dance in Nets they may not be ſeene: yet poore mens faults are ſpied at a little hole. Well, it is a hard care where kings luſts are lawes, and that they ſhould binde poore men to that which they themſelues wilfully breake.

Peace, Husband (quoth his wife) take héed what we ſay: Speake no more then you ſhould, leaſt you heare what you would not. Great ſtreames are to be ſtopped by ſleight, not by force: and Princes to be perſwaded by ſubmiſſion, not by rigour. Doe what you can, but no more then you may, leſt in ſauing Fawnia's Maiden-head, you loſe your owne head. Take héed, I ſay, it is ill ieſting with edged toles, and bad ſporting with kings. The Wolfe had his skin pulled ouer his eares, for but looking into the Lyons den.

Tuſh, wife (quoth he) thou ſpeakeſt like a Fole: If the king ſhould know that Doraſtus had gotten our daughter with child (as I feare it will fall out little better) the Kings fury would be ſuch, as no doubt we ſhould both loſe our goods and liues neceſſity therefore hath no Law, & I will preuent this miſchiefe with a new deuice ỹ is come into my head, which ſhall neither offend ỹ King, nor diſpleaſe Doraſtus. I meane to take ỹ chain and the Iewels that I found with Fawnia, & carry them to the King; letting him then to vnderſtand, how thee is none of my daughter, but that I found her beaten vp with the water alone in a little Boat, wrapped in a rich mantle, wherin was incloſed this Treaſure. By this meanes, I hope the King will take Fawnia into his ſeruice, and we, whatſoeuer chanceth, ſhall be blameleſſe. This deuiſe pleaſed the good-wife very well, ſo that they determined as ſoone as they might know the King at leiſure, to make him priuy to this caſe.

In the meane time, Dorastus was not slacke in his affaires, but applied his matters with such diligence, that he prouided all things fit for their Iourney. Treasure and Iewels he had gotten great store, thinking there was no better friend then money in a strange Countrey. Rich attire he had prouided for Fawnia; and because he could not bring the matter to passe without the helpe & aduice of some one, he made an ould seruant of his called Capnio, who had serued him from the child-hood, priuie to his affaires: who, seeing no perswasions could preuaile to diuert him from his settled determination, gaue his consent, and dealt so secretly in the cause, that within short space he had gotten a Ship ready for their passage. The Mariners seeing a fit gale of Wind for their purpose, wished Capnio to make no delayes, lest if they pretermitted this good Weather, they might stay long ere they had such a faire wind. Capnio fearing that his negligence should hinder their Iourney, in the night time conueyed the truncks full of Treasure into ỳ Ship, and by secret meanes let Fawnia vnderstand, that the next Morning they meant to depart. Shee vpon these newes slept very little that night, but got her vp very earlie, and went to her sheepe, looking euery minute when she should see Dorastus: who tarried not long, for feare delay might breed danger; but came as fast as hee could gallop, and without any great circumstance tooke Fawnia vp behind him, and rode to the Hauen where the Ship lay, which was three quarters of a mile distant from that place. He no sooner came there, but the Mariners were ready with their Cock-Boat to set them aboord: where being coucht together in a Cabbin they past away the time in recounting their old loues, till their man Capnio could come.

Porrus, who had heard that this morning the King would goe abroad to take the ayre, called in haste to his wife, to bring him his Holy-day-Hose, and his best Iacket, that he might goe like an honest substantiall man to tell his Tale. His Wife a good cleanly wench, brought him all things fit, and sponged him vp very handsomely, giuing him a Chayne and the Iewels in a little box: which Porrus for the more safety put in his bosome. Hauing thus his trinkets in a readinesse, taking his Staffe in his hand, hee bade his Wife kisse him for good lucke, and so

he

he went towards the Palace. But as he was going, Fortune (who meant to ſhew him a little falſe play) preuented his purpoſe in this wiſe.

He met by chance in his way Capnio, who trudging as faſt as he could, with a little Coffer vnder his arme to the ſhip, and ſpying Porrus, whom hee knew to bee Fawnias Father going towards the Palace: being a wylie fellow, began to doubt the worſt, and therefore croſt him the way, and asked him whither he was going ſo early in the morning.

Porrus (who knew by his face that he was one of the Court) meaning ſimply, told him that the kings ſonne Doraſtus dealt hardly with him: for hee had but one daughter, who was a little beautifull, and that his Neighbours told him the yong Prince had allured her to folly: hee went therefore now to complayne to the king how greatly he was abuſed.

Capnio (who ſtraight way knew the whole matter) began to ſcoth him in his talke, and ſayd, that Doraſtus dealt not like a Prince, to ſpoyle any poore mans Daughter in that ſort: hee therefore would doe the beſt for him he could, becauſe he knew hee was an honeſt man. But (quoth Capnio) you loſe your labour in going to the Palace: for the king meanes this day to take the ayre of the Sea, and to goe aboord of a Ship that lies in the Hauen: I am going before, you ſee, to prouide all things in a readineſſe: and if you will follow my counſell, turne backe with me to the Hauen, where I will ſet you in ſuch a fit place as you may ſpeake to the king at your pleaſure. Porrus giuing credit to Capnios fayre tales, gaue him a thouſand thanks for his friendly aduice, and went with him to the Hauen, making all the way his complaynt on Doraſtus; yet concealing ſecretly his thayne and the Iewels. As ſoone as they were come to the Sea-ſide, the Mariners ſeeing Capnio, came to land with their Cock-boat: who ſtill diſſembling the matter, demanded of Porrus, if hee would goe for the ſhippe: who willing, and fearing the worſt, becauſe hee was not well acquainted with Capnio, made his excuſe, that he could not brooke the Sea, and therefore would not trouble him.

Capnio, ſeeing that by fayre meanes he could not get him aboord, commaunded the Mariners that by violence they ſhould

carry him into the ship, who like sturdy knaues hoisted the poore Shepheard on their backes, and bearing him to the Boat, launched from the Land.

Porrus seeing himselfe so cunningly betraied, durst not cry out, for he saw it would not preuayle: but began to intreate Capnio, and the Mariners to bee good to him, and to pitty his estate, hee was but a poore man that liued by his labour: they laughing to see the Shepheard so affrayd, made as much hast as they could to set him aboord. Porrus was no sooner in the ship but he saw Doraſtus walking with Fawnia, yet he scarce knew her: for shee had attyred her selfe in rich apparell, which so increased her beauty, that shee resembled rather an Angell, than a creature.

Doraſtus and Fawnia were halfe astonished to see the Old Shepheard; marueilling greatly what Wind had brought him thither, till Capnio told them all the whole discourse: how Porrus was going to make his complaint to the king, if by policy he had not preuented him; and therfore now sith he was aboord, for the auoyding of further danger, it were best to carry him into Italy.

Doraſtus praised greatly his mans deuice, and allowed of his counsaile: but Fawnia (who still feared Porrus as her Father) began to blush for shame, that by her meanes hee should either incurre danger or displeasure.

The Old Shepheard hearing this hard sentence: that hee should on such a sodaine be carryed from his Wife, his country and kinsfolke, into a forreigne Land among strangers, began with bitter teares to make his complaint, and on his knees to intreat Doraſtus, that pardoning his vnaduised folly, he would giue him leaue to goe home: sweoring that he would keepe all things as secret as he could wish. But these protestations could not preuayle, although Fawnia intreated Doraſtus very earnestly: but the Mariners hoisted their maine sailes, waighed Anchors, haled into the deepe: where we leaue them to the succor of the Wind and Seas, and returne to Egiſtus.

WHo hauing appointed this day to Hunt in one of his Forrests, called for his Sonne Doraſtus, to goe sport himselfe,

himſelfe, becauſe he ſaw that of late he began to lowre: but his men made anſwer, that hée was gone abroad none knew whither, except hée were gone to the Groue to walke all alone, as his cuſtome was euery day.

The King, willing to waken him out of his dumpe, ſent one of his men to goe ſéeke him, but in vaine: for at the laſt he returned, but find him he could not, ſo that the King went himſelfe to go ſée the ſport: where paſſing away the day, returning at night from hunting, he asked for his Son, but he could not be heard of, which braue the king into a great choller: whereupon moſt of his Noble-men and other Courtiers poſted abroad to ſéeke him, but they could not heare of him through all Sicilia: onely they miſſed Capnio his man, which againe made the king ſuſpect that he was not gone farre.

Two or Thrée daies being paſſed, and no newes heard of Doraſtus, Egiſtus being to feare that hee was deuoured with ſome wild Beaſts, and vpon that made out a great Troupe of Men to goe ſéeke him: who coaſted thorow all the Countrey and ſearched in euery dangerous and ſecret Place, vntill at laſt they met with a Fiſher-man, that was ſitting in a little couert, hard by the Sea-ſide, mending his Nets, when Doraſtus and Fawnia tooke ſhipping: who being examined if he either knew or heard where the kings ſonne was, without any ſecreſie at all, reuealed the whole matter, how he was ſayled two dayes paſt, and had in his company his man Capnio, Porrus, and his faire daughter Fawnia. This heauy Newes was preſently carried to the King, who halfe dead for ſorrow, commaunded Porrus Wife to bee ſent for: ſhe being come to the Palace, after due examination, confeſſed, that her neighbors had oft told her, that the Kings Son was too familiar with Fawnia her Daughter: Whereupon her Husband fearing the worſt, about two daies paſt, (hearing the king ſhould goe on Hunting) roſe early in the Morning, and went to make his complaint, but ſince hée neither heard of him, nor ſaw him. Egiſtus perceiuing the Womans vnfayned ſimplicity, let her depart without incurring further diſpleaſure, conceiuing ſuch ſecret griefe for his Sons wretchleſſe folly, that he had ſo forgotten his Honour and Parentage, by ſo baſe a choice to diſho-

nour his Father, and discredit himselfe, that with very care he thought he fell into a quartaine Feuer: which was so unfit for his aged yeares and complexion, that he became so weak, as the Physicians would grant him no life.

But his Son Doraſtus little regarded either Father, Countrey or Kingdome, in respect of his Lady Fawnia: for Fortune ſmiling on this yong nouice, ſent him ſo lucky a gale of Wind, for the ſpace of a day and a night, that the Mariners lay & ſlept vpon the hatches: but on the next morning about the breake of the day, the ayre began to ouer-caſt, the winds to riſe, the ſeas to ſwell: yea preſently there aroſe ſuch a feareſull tempeſt, as the Ship was in danger to be ſwallowed vp in euery Sea; the maine maſt, with the violence of the wind, was throwne ouer-bord, the Sailes were torne, the Tackling render aſunder, the ſtorme raging ſtill ſo furiouſly, that poore Fawnia was almoſt dead for feare, but that ſhe was greatly comforted with the preſence of Doraſtus. The tempeſt continued three dayes, all which time, the Mariners euery minute loked for death, and the aire was ſo darkened with clouds, that the Maiſter could not tell by the compaſſe in what coaſt they were. But vpon the fourth day about ten of the Clocke, the Winde began to ceaſe, the Sea to ware calme, and the Sky to be clere, and the mariners deſcried the coaſt of Bohemia, ſhoting off their Ordnance for ioy that they had eſcaped ſuch a feareſull tempeſt.

Doraſtus hearing that they were arriued at ſome Harbour, ſweetly kiſſed Fawnia, and bade her be of good cheere. When they told him that the Port belonged to the chiefe City of Bohemia where Pandoſto kept his Court, Doraſtus began to be ſad; knowing that his Father hated no man ſo much as Pandoſto, and that the king himſelfe had ſought ſecretly to betray Egiſtus: this conſidered, he was halfe affrayd to goe on Land, but that Capnio Counſelled him to change his Name and his Countrey, vntill ſuch time as they could get ſome other Barke to tranſport them into Italy. Doraſtus liking this deuice, made his caſe privy to the Mariners, rewarding them bountifully for their paynes, and charging them to ſay, that he was a Gentleman of Trapolonia, called Meleagrus. The Shipmen willing to ſhew what friendſhip they could to Doraſtus, promiſed to be as

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ſecret as they could, or he might wiſh: and vpon this, they landed in a little Village a mile diſtant from the City: where, after they had reſted a day, thinking to make Prouiſion for their marriage, the fame of Fawnia's beauty was ſpred throughout all the City, ſo that it came to the eare of Pandoſto: who then being about the age of fifty, had notwithſtanding young and freſh affections: ſo that he deſired greatly to ſee Fawnia: and to bring this matter the better to paſſe, hearing they had but one man, and how they reſted at a very homely houſe hee cauſed them to bee apprehended as Spies, and ſent Twelue of his Guard to take them, who being come to their Lodging, told them the Kings meſſage. Doraſtus no whit diſmayed, accompanied with Fawnia and Capnio, went to the Court (for they left Porrus to keepe the Stuffe) who being admitted to the Kinges preſence, Doraſtus and Fawnia with humble obeyſance ſaluted his Maieſtie.

Pandoſto amazed at the ſingular perfection of Fawnia, ſtood halfe aſtoniſhed, viewing her beauty, ſo that hee almoſt forgot himſelfe what he had to doe: at laſt, with ſterne countenance he demanded their names, and of what countrey they were, and what cauſed them to land in Bohemia? Sir (quoth Doraſtus) know that my name is Meleagrus, a knight, borne & brought vp in Trapolonia, and this Gentlewoman, whom I meane to take to my wife, is an Italian borne in Padua, from whence I haue now brought her. The cauſe I haue ſo ſmall a traine with me, is, for that her friends vnwilling to conſent, I entended ſecretly to conuey her into Trapolonia, whither I was ſayling, and by diſtreſſe of weather: I was driuen into theſe Coaſts. Thus haue you heard my name, my Country, and the cauſe of my voyage. Pandoſto ſtarting from his ſeat, as one in choller, made this rough reply.

MEleagrus, I feare, this ſmoth fals hath but ſmall truth, and that thou couereſt a foule skin with faire paintings. No doubt, this Lady, by her grace and beauty, is of higher degree, more meet for a mighty Prince, then for a ſimple knight: and thou like a periured Traytor haſt bereft her of her parents to their preſent griefe, and her enſuing ſorrow. Till therefore

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I heare more of her Parentage, and of her calling, I will ſtay you both heere in Bohemia.

Doraſtus, in whom reſted nothing but kingly valour, was not able to ſuffer the reproaches of Pandoſto, but that he made him this anſwere.

IT is not meet for a King, without due proofe, to appeach any man of ill behaviour, nor vpon ſuſpition to inferre beliefe; Strangers ought to be entertained with courteſie, not to be entreated with cruelty: leſt being forced by want to put vp iniuries, the Gods revenge their cauſe with rigour.

Pandoſto hearing Doraſtus vtter theſe words, commanded that he ſhould ſtraight be committed to priſon, vntill ſuch time as they heard further of his pleaſure: but as for Fawnia, hee charged that ſhe ſhould be entertained in the Court, with ſuch courteſie as belonged to a ſtranger and her calling: the reſt of the ſhipmen put in the Dungeon.

Having thus ſo hardly handled the ſuppoſed Trapolonians, Pandoſto, contrary to his aged yeares, began to bee ſomewhat tickled with the beauty of Fawnia, inſomuch that he could take no reſt, but caſt into his olde head a thouſand new deuices: at laſt he fell into theſe thoughts.

HOw art thou deſtred (Pandoſto) with freſh affections, and vnfit fancies, wiſhing to poſſeſſe with an vnwilling mind, and a hot deſire troubled with a cold diſdaine? Shall thy mind yéeld in age, to that thou haſt reſiſted in youth? Peace Pandoſto blab not out ỹ which thou maieſt be aſhamed to reueale to thy ſelfe. Ah, Fawnia is beautifull, and it is not for thine Honour (fond fole) to name her that is thy Captiue, and another mans Concubine. Alas, I reach at ỹ with my hand, which my heart would faine refuſe: playing like the bird Ibis in Ægypt, which hateth Serpents, yet feedeth on their Egges.

Tuſh, hot deſires turne oftentimes to cold diſdaine: Loue is brittle, where appetite, not reaſon beares the ſway: Kings thoughts ought not to climbe ſo high as the Heauens, but to looke no lower then honour: better it is to pecke at the Starres with the young Eagles, then to prey on dead Carcaſſes with the

the Vulture: it is more honourable for Pandoſto to dy by concealing Loue, then to enioy ſuch vnfit Loue. Doth Pandoſto then Loue? Yea, Whom? A mayd vnknowne, yea, and perhaps immodeſt, dragled out of her owne Country: beautifull, but not therefore chaſte: comely in body, but perhaps croked in mind. Ceaſe then, pandoſto, to loke at Fawnia, much leſſe to loue her: be not ouertaken with a Womans beauty, whoſe eies are framed by Art to enamour: whoſe heart is framed by nature to inchant: whoſe falſe teares know their due time, and whoſe ſweete words pierce deeper then sharpe ſwordes. Here ceaſt pandoſto from his talke, but not from his loue: for although he ſought by reaſon and wiſdome to ſuppreſſe this franticke affection, yet he could take no reſt, the beauty of *Fawnia* had made ſuch a deepe impreſſion in his heart. But one a day walking abroad into a Parke, which was hard adioyning to his Houſe, he ſent by one of his ſeruants for *Fawnia*, vnto whom he vttered theſe words:

FAwnia, I commend thy Beauty and wit, and now pitty thy diſtreſſe and want: but if thou wilt forſake Sir Meleagrus (whoſe pouerty, though a Knight, is not able to maintaine an eſtate anſwerable to thy Beauty) and yeeld thy conſent to pandoſto, I will both increaſe thee with dignities and riches. No, Sir, anſwered Fawnia, Meleagrus is a Knight that hath won me by loue, and none but hee ſhall weare me: his ſiniſter miſchance ſhall not diminiſh my affection, but rather increaſe my good will: thinke not, though your Grace hath impriſoned him without cauſe, that feare will make me yeeld my conſent. I had rather be Meleagrus wife, and a begger, then liue in plenty, and be pandoſto's Concubine.

Pandoſto, hearing the aſſured anſwer of *Fawnia*, would notwithſtanding proſecute his ſuite to the vttermoſt: ſeeking with faire words and great promiſes to ſcale the fort of her chaſtity: ſweating that if ſhee would graunt to his deſire, Meleagrus ſhould not onely bee ſet at liberty, but honoured in the Court amongſt his Nobles. But theſe alluring baits could not entice her mind from the loue of her new-betrothed Mate Meleagrus which pandoſto ſeeing, he let her alone for that time to conſider

more of the demaund. Fawnia being alone by her ſelfe, began to fall into theſe ſolitary meditations:

AY infortunate Fawnia, thou ſeeſt, to deſire aboue fortune is to ſtriue aboue gods and fortune. Who gazeth at the Sun, weakneth his ſight: They which ſtare at the ſky fall oft into deep pits: hadſt thou reſted content to haue been a Shepheard, thou needeſt not to haue feared miſchance: better had it been for thee, by ſitting low, to haue had quiet, then by clyming high, to haue falne into miſery. But alas, I feare not mine own danger but Doraſtus diſpleaſure. Ah ſweet Doraſtus, thou art a Prince, but now a priſoner, by too much loue, procuring thine own loſſe: haddeſt thou not loued Fawnia, thou hadſt been fortunate. Shall I then bee falſe to him that hath forſaken kingdomes for my cauſe? No, would my death might deliuer him, ſo mine honor might be preſerued. With that, fetching a deepe ſigh, ſhe ceaſed from her complaynts, and went again to the Palace, enioyning a liberty without content, and proffered pleaſure with ſmal ioy. But poore Doraſtus lay all this while in cloſe priſon, being pinched with a hard reſtraynt, & payned with the burthen of cold & heauy Irons, ſorrowed ſometymes that his fond affection had procured him this miſhappe, that by the diſobedience of his parents, he had wrought his own deſpight: another while curſing the gods and fortune, that they would croſſe him with ſiniſter chance, vttering at laſt his paſſions, with theſe words:

AY vnfortunate wretch, borne to miſhap, now thy folly hath his deſert: art thou not worthy for thy baſe minde, to haue bad fortune? Could the deſtinies fauor thee, which haſt forgot thine honour and dignity? Will not the gods plague him with deſpight, that payneth his father with diſobedience? Oh gods if any fauor or iuſtice bee left, plague me, but fauor poore Fawnia, and ſhrowd her from the Tyrannyes of wretched pandoſto: but let my death free her from miſhap, and then welcom death. Doraſtus payned with theſe heauy paſſions, ſorrowed and ſighed but in vayne; for which he vſed more patience.

But agayne to pandoſto, who broyling in the heat of vnlawfull luſt, could take no reſt, but ſtill felt his mind diſquieted with

with his new loue; ſo that his Nobles and Subiects maruelled greatly at his ſodaine alteration, not being able to conieoture the cauſe of this his continued care. Pandoſto thinking euery houre a yeare, till he had talked once againe with Fawnia, ſent for her ſecretly into his chamber: whither Fawnia though vnwillingly comming, Pandoſto entertain'd her very courteouſly. vſing theſe familiar ſpeeches, which Fawnia anſwered as ſhortly in this wiſe.

Pandoſto

Fawnia are you become leſſe wilfull, and more wiſe, to preferre the loue of a King, before the liking of a poore knight? I thinke ere this you thinke it is better to be fauoured of a king, than of a Subiect.

Fawnia.

Pandoſto, the Body is ſubiect to victories, but the mindes not to be ſubdued with Conqueſt: honeſty is to be preferred before Honour, and a Dram of faith weigheth downe a Tun of gold, I haue promiſed Meleagrus my loue, and will performe no leſſe.

Pandoſto.

Fawnia, I know thou art not ſo vnwiſe in thy choyce, as to refuſe the offer of a King, nor ſo vngratefull as to deſpiſe a good turne: thou art now in that place where I may command, and yet thou ſeeſt I intreat: my power is ſuch, that I may compell by force, & yet I ſue by prayers. Weld, Fawnia, thy loue to him which burneth in thy loue: Meleagrus ſhall bee ſet free, thy Countrey-men diſcharged, and thou both loued and honored.

Fawnia.

I ſee Pandoſto, where luſt ruleth, it is a miſerable thing to bee a Virgin: but know this, that I will alwaies preferre fame before life, and rather chooſe death then diſhonour.

Pandoſto ſeeing that there was in *Fawnia* a determinate courage to loue Meleagrus, and a reſolution without feare to hate him, flying away from her in a rage, hee ſware, that if in ſhort time ſhe would not be won by reaſon, he would forget all courteſie, and compell her to grant by rigour. But theſe threatning words no whit diſmayd Fawnia: but that ſhee ſtill both

despighted & despised Pandosto. While thus these two Louers strous, the one to winne Loue, the other to liue in hate: Egistus heard certayne Newes by Merchants of Bohemia, that his sonne Dorastus was imprisoned by Pandosto: which made him feare greatly, that his Sonne should be but hardly intreated: yet considering that Bellaria and hee were cleered by the Oracle of Apollo, from the crime wherewith Pandosto had vniustly charge them: hee thought best to send with all speed to Pandosto, that hee should set free his Sonne Dorastus, and put to death Fawnia, and her Father Porrus. Finding this, by the aduice of counsell, the speediest remedy to release his Sonne he caused presently two of his Ships to be rigged: and throwly furnished with Prouision of men and Victualls, and sent diuers of his Nobles Embassadors into Bohemia; who willing to obey the King, and receiue their young Prince, made no delayes, for feare of danger, but with as much speed as might bee, sayled towards Bohemia; the Winde and Seas fauoured them greatly, which made the hope of some good hap: for within three daies they were Landed: which Pandosto no sooner heard of their arriuall, but he in Person went to meet them, intreating them with such sumptuous and familiar courtesie, that they might well perceiue how sorry he was for the former iniuries hee had offered to their King, and how willing (if it might bee) to make amends. As Pandosto made report to them how one Meleagrus a knight of Trapolonia, was lately arriued with a Lady called Fawnia in his Land, comming very suspitiously: accompanied onely with one Seruant, and an old Shepheard: the Embassadours perceiued by the halfe, what the whole tale meant, and began to coniecture that was Dorastus, who for feare to be knowne, had changed his Name. But dissembling the matter, they shortly arriued at the Court, where after they had been very solemnely and sumptuously feasted the Noblemen of Sicilia: being gathered together, they made report of their Embassage: where they certified Pandosto, that Meleagrus was Sonne and Heyre to the King Egistus: and that his name was Dorastus: and how contrary to the kings mind, hee had priuily conueyed away that Fawnia, intending to marrie Her, beeing but Daughter to that poore Shepheard Porrus.

Where-

Whereupon the Kings requeſt was, that Capnio, Fawnia and Porrus might be murthered and put to death, and that his ſon Doraſtus might bee ſent home in ſafety. Pandoſto hauing attentiuely and with great marualle heard their Embaſſage, willing to reconcile himſelfe to Egiſtus, & to ſhew him how greatly he eſteemed his fauour, although Loue and fancy forbad him to hurt Fawnia, yet in deſpight of loue he determined to execute Egiſtus will without mercy, and therefore he preſently ſent for Doraſtus out of priſon: who marueling at his vnlooked for courteſie, found at his comming to the Kings preſence, that which he leaſt doubted of, his Fathers Embaſſadours: who no ſooner ſaw him, but with great reuerence they honoured him, and pandoſto embracing Doraſtus, ſet him by him very louingly in a chayre of ſtate. Doraſtus, aſhamed that his folly was bewrayed, ſate a long time as one in a maze, till Pandoſto told him the ſum of his Fathers Embaſſage: which he had no ſooner heard but he was touched to the quick for the cruel ſentence that was pronounced againſt Fawnia: but neither could his ſorrow nor perſwaſions preuayle: for pandoſto commanded that Fawnia, Porrus, and Capnio, ſhould bee brought to his preſence: who were no ſooner come, but pandoſto hauing his former loue turned into diſdaynefull hate, beegan to rage againſt Fawnia in theſe termes:

THou diſdaynefull vaſſall, thou curriſh kite, aſſigned by the Deſtinies to baſe Fortune, and yet with an aſpiring mind gazing after honour: how durſt thou preſume, being a begger, to match with a Prince? By thy allaring lookes to inchaunt the Sonne of a King, to leaue his owne Country, to fulfil thy diſordinate luſts: O deſpightfull mind: A proud heart in a begger, is not vnlike a great fire in a ſmal cottage, which warmeth not the houſe, but burneth it: aſſure thy ſelfe thou ſhalt dye: and thou old doting fole, what folly hath bēn ſuch, as to ſuffer thy daughter to reach aboue thy Fortune: looke for no other mēde, but the like puniſhment. But Capnio thou which haſt betrayed the king, and haſt conſented to the vnlawfull luſt of thy Lord and Maſter, I know not how iuſtly I may plague thee: Death is too eaſie a puniſhment for thy falſhood,

and to liue, (if not in extreme miſery) were not to ſhew thée quity. I therefore award, that thou ſhalt haue thine eyes put out, and continually till thou dieſt, grind in a Mill like a brute beaſt. The feare of death brought a ſorrowfull ſilence vpon Fawnia, and Capnio: but Porrus ſeeing no hope of life, burſt forth in theſe ſpæches.

PAndoſto, & ye Noble Embaſſadours of Sicilia, ſéeing without cauſe I am condemned to die. I am yet glad I haue opportunity to diſburden my conſcience before my death: I will tell you as much as I know, & yet no more then is true, whereas I am accuſed that I haue béen a ſupporter of Fawnia's pride and ſhe diſdained as a vile beggar; ſo it is, that I am neither father vnto her, nor ſhe daughter vnto me.

For it ſo happened, that I being a poore ſhepheard in Sycilia, liuing by kéeping other mens flocks, one of my ſhéepe ſtraying downe to the Sea-ſide, as I went to ſéeke her, I ſaw a little Boat driuen vpon the ſhore, wherein I found a Babe of fiue daies old, wrapped in a Mantle of Scarlet, hauing about the necke this chaine: I pitying the Child, and deſirous of the Treaſure, caried it home to my wife, who with great care nurſed it vp, and ſet it to kéepe Shéepe. Héere is the Chaine and Jewels, & this Fawnia is the child whom I found in the Boat: what ſhe is, or of what parentage, I know not: but this I am aſſured, that ſhe is none of mine.

Pandoſto would ſcarce ſuffer him to tell out his tale, but that he required the time of the yéere, the manner of the Boat, and other circumſtances: which when he found agréeing to his count, ſodainely he lept from his ſeat, and kiſſed Fawnia, wetting her tender chéekes with his teares, and crying, My daughter Fawnia, ah my ſwéet Fawnia, I am thy father, Fawnia! this ſudden paſſion of the king draue them all into a maze, eſpecially Fawnia & Doraſtus. But when the king had breathed himſelfe a while in this new ioy, he rehearſed before the Embaſſadours the whole matter, and how he had entreated his Wife Bellaria for Jealouſie, & that this was the Child whom he ſent to float in the Seas.

Fawnia was not more ioyfull that ſhee had found ſuch a Father

Father, then Doraſtus was glad he ſhould get ſuch a wife. The Embaſſadors reioyced that their young Prince had made ſuch a choyce: That thoſe kingdomes which through enmity had long time bẽn diſſeuered, ſhould now through perpetual amity be vnited and reconciled. The Citizens & Subiects of Bohemia (hearing that the King had found againe his Daughter which was ſuppoſed dead, ioyfull that there was an heire apparant to the Kingdome) made Bone-fires and ſhewes throughout all the City. The Courties and knights appointed Iuſts and Turneyes, to ſignifie their willing minds in gratifying the kings hap.

Eighténe dayes being paſt in theſe Princely ſports, Pandoſto willing to recompence old Porrus, of a Shepheard made him a knight: which done, prouiding a ſufficient Nauy to receiue him and his retinue, accompanied with Doraſtus and Fawnia, and the Sicilian Embaſſadours, he ſailed towards Sicilia, where he was moſt princely entertained by Egiſtus: who hearing this Comicall euent, reioyced greatly at his Sonnes good hap, and without delay (to the perpetuall ioy of the two young Louers) celebrated the marriage. Which was no ſoner ended, but pandoſto (calling to mind how he firſt betrayed his friend Egiſtus, how his iealouſie was the cauſe of Bellaria's death, that contrary to the Law of nature, he had luſted after his own daughter) moued with theſe deſperate thoughts, he fell in a melancholly fit, and to cloſe vp the Comedy with a tragicall ſtratagem, he ſlew himſelfe: whoſe death being many dates bewailed of Fawnia, Doraſtus, & his déere friend Egiſtus, Doraſtus taking leaue of his Father, went with his wife and the dead Corps into Bohemia: whereafter it was ſumptuouſly intombed, DORASTVS ended his dayes in contented quiet.

(***)

FINIS.